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PACIFIC



KOREA TENSIONS

South Korea on alert after North threats

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea held an emergency security meeting Sunday and said its military was on alert after a series of threats from the North as rising tensions replaced hopes for peace and denuclearization.

The moves came amid growing concern the divided peninsula faced a new crisis more than two years after President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held an unprecedented summit in Singapore.

Kim's influential sister warned Saturday that the North would destroy an inter-Korean liaison office and unleash the army against the South due to anger over Seoul's failure to stop activists from floating anti-regime leaflets across the border.

South Korea's national security director, Chung Eui-yong, convened a video conference with other top security officials Sunday morning to discuss the situation, which the government called "grave."

The defense ministry in Seoul said it was closely monitoring North Korean military moves and maintaining a defensive posture "in preparation for all eventualities." It also called on the North to stick to an inter-Korean military agreement aimed at restoring peace "and the prevention of accidental clashes."

On Saturday, Kim Yo Jong, the North Korean leader's sister who has recently been elevated in status as an official, said "it is high time to surely break with the South Korean authorities" and promised to "soon take a next action," according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"Before long, a tragic scene of the useless north-south joint liaison office completely collapsed would be seen," she said, calling the South an "enemy."



Kim Yo Jong

Recovered and ready

US naval buildup in Indo-Pacific seen as warning to China

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

For the first time in nearly three years, three American aircraft carriers are patrolling the Indo-Pacific waters, a massive show of naval force in a region roiled by spiking tensions between the U.S. and China and a sign that the Navy has bounced back from the worst days of the coronavirus outbreak.

The unusual simultaneous appearance of the three warships, accompanied by Navy cruisers, destroyers, fighter jets and other aircraft, comes as the U.S. escalates criticism of Beijing's response to the virus outbreak, its moves to im-

F/A-18 Super Hornets fly over the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt on June 9 in the Philippine Sea. The Roosevelt recently returned to duty after spending more than two months sidelined in Guam with a massive COVID-19 outbreak among its crew.

Dylan Lavin/U.S. Navy

■ **Repaired USS Fitzgerald sets sail 3 years after deadly collision off Japan**
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pose greater control over Hong Kong and its campaign to militarize human-made islands in the South China Sea.

"There have been some indications in Chinese writings that the United States was hit hard by COVID-19, that military preparedness was low, so perhaps there is an effort by the United States to signal China that it should not miscalculate," said Bonnie Glaser, director of the China Power

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PACIFIC

US troops honor Floyd with vigil at Camp Humphreys

BY KIM GAMEL
AND MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Hundreds of American troops, their loved ones and civilians waved candles and sang during a vigil on Camp Humphreys honoring George Floyd and showing solidarity with the anti-racism movement his death has inspired.

The hourlong gathering Thursday night was the brainchild of Spc. David Perkins, who secretly distributed some 2,300 flyers at dining facilities, stores, bus stops and other public areas last week before gaining support from the garrison.

It gave the military community an opportunity to commemorate Floyd, a 46-year-old black man who died on May 25 as a white Minneapolis policeman pinned him down with his knee.

"I know the unlawful killing of George Floyd has been something that's been eating away at us," Perkins told the crowd gathered on a plaza in the base's main shopping and entertainment area. "It's been weighing heavily on every conversation, every thought."

"I don't want to see this fire fizzle out and be put on the back burner," he said. "We're not only here for George Floyd but also for families around the globe affected by unjust police and racial prejudices."

Floyd's death has also forced a reckoning in the military about how to confront racism in its own ranks after years of priding itself on diversity.

Gen. Robert Abrams, who commands U.S. Forces Korea,

has expressed outrage over the killing and held a town hall-style meeting last Sunday after directing subordinate leaders to initiate dialogue with their units.

Perkins, who is assigned to the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, said he modeled the candlelight vigil after the popular style of protest in South Korea.

But politics remained largely off-limits. USFK has posted guidelines on the do's and don'ts of self-expression in the military, including a ban on "contemptuous words" against the president, the vice president, Congress and other government officials.

Some troops were reportedly told the week before that they would not be allowed to attend, but officials gave the green light last Sunday.

Many people wore T-shirts emblazoned with "Black Lives Matter" and "I Can't Breathe" as they listened to speeches and a fiery sermon by the hospital chaplain, Lt. Col. Isaac Opara of the 65th Medical Brigade, who also led the crowd in singing "God Bless America."

The crowd hushed for a period of silence that lasted eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time the police officer Derek Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck.

Staff Sgt. LaQuanna Stone, 30, said he was amazed that the gathering had taken place, especially since it was organized by a junior enlisted soldier.

"I'm glad the military actually got involved in something," he said after the commemoration. "You always see the military



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

A candlelight vigil organized by Army Spc. David Perkins honors George Floyd at Downtown Plaza on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Thursday.



People honor George Floyd with a candlelight vigil.

promoting Army 10-milers and Army fun runs, but for once we got involved in something that America was involved in."

His wife, Shaswala Stone, said she felt rage and fear during the period of silence as she imagined what it would have been like to be there.

"A lot of thoughts came over me like I don't want that to be my husband; I don't want that to be my son or any of my family members or friends," she said.

Chauvin has been charged with second-degree murder in Floyd's death; three other ex-policemen who were at the scene also face charges of aiding and abetting.

Lt. Col. N.I. Okpovasil, the 2nd Infantry Division command surgeon, usually avoids crowds, but he wanted his five children "to see people gathering for a cause peacefully, and especially for a cause that will hopefully help black people."

He was cautiously optimistic



People hold up candles and signs during a moment of silence for George Floyd.

that the momentum toward racial justice will continue but noted that Floyd was only the latest in a string of unarmed black men killed by police.

"Quite frankly in the last 10-15 years so many black folks have been killed and hunted," he said. "So I think this is good, but talk to me in two years."

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Work resumes on controversial Marine runway in Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYU ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Japanese government has restarted construction on the coastal airfield in northeastern Okinawa that will one day facilitate the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Work resumed Friday on "area 2-1" and "area 2-2" at the Marine base Camp Schwab in Henoko, said a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan's Defense Ministry on the island.

Construction was suspended April 17 when a civilian security guard tested positive for the coronavirus.

"We have asked all the contracting companies to apply the best coronavirus mitigation measures: use of alcohol sprays, wearing masks, no big meetings and such,"

the bureau spokesman said.

Between 1,000 and 2,000 workers enter Schwab for construction work daily.

Areas 2-1 and 2 make up approximately 0.12 square miles but account for approximately one-quarter of the 0.6 square mile reclamation project.

The 0.02-square-mile area 2-1 was supposed to be completed by July 31, but the project has been hampered by cost overruns and delays. Bureau officials declined to say how much of the project has been completed to date.

The resumption of construction angered prefectural officials who are still trying to fight the relocation within Okinawa in the courts.

"It's very disappointing," Okinawa Gov. Denryo Tamaki said during a press conference Friday, the Ryukyu Shimpō newspaper reported. Of 48 local assembly

representatives, 29 are against the relocation.

That "shows that the majority of Okinawa's people are against the new base," he said.

Japan's Supreme Court in March rejected a lawsuit brought by the prefectural government to block the relocation project. Another lawsuit in a local court is pending. A prefectural spokesman said Friday. No hearing date has been scheduled due to the coronavirus.

"Currently, we cannot stop the construction by law," the prefectural spokesman said.

Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak on condition of anonymity as a condition of their employment.

Resuming work at the site comes after the Japanese government in May acknowledged that project completion has been

pushed to at least 2030 and the overall cost has jumped to \$8.7 billion. The project had been set for completion in 2014 by bilateral agreement at a cost of \$2.2 billion.

Defense Bureau officials on April 21 asked the prefectural government to approve changes to the project. Tamaki has up to 223 days to respond. Should he deny the request, the case will be headed back to the courts, meaning potentially more delays and cost overruns.

Defense Bureau officials said they plan to move on to the Oura Bay side of the project and begin work there, once the prefecture agrees to the proposed changes to construction methods to reinforce the soft floor of the bay. They do not plan to wait for completion of the current phases.

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MILITARY

Alert: North Korea moves underscore collapse of US talks

FROM FRONT PAGE

"If I drop a hint of our next plan the South Korean authorities are anxious about, the right to taking the next action against the enemy will be entrusted to the General Staff of our army," she added.

"Our army, too, will determine something for cooling down our people's resentment and surely carry it out, I believe," she said. "Rubbish must be thrown into dustbin."

Kim didn't specify a military action, and the North has not carried out previous threats, including a December promise to unveil a new "strategic weapon" that many predicted would be an intercontinental ballistic weapon.

But experts speculated North Korea may conduct an artillery test or another action in the sea off the western coast, which would likely upset the South but stop short of provoking the United States.

Trump has been dismissive about a series of short-range missile tests in recent months but suggested the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile or

another nuclear test would be a red line.

The North Korean saber-rattling underscored the collapse of U.S.-led efforts to persuade the Kim regime to abandon its nuclear weapons, which reached a high point during the June 12, 2018, summit in Singapore.

The leaders made a vague promise to work toward the "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" during the highly symbolic summit, the first between a U.S. and North Korean leader.

But expectations of a breakthrough were dashed when Trump and Kim failed to reach a new deal in a second summit in February 2019 due to disagreements over the extent of sanctions removal in exchange for the dismantling of an aging nuclear facility.

North Korea, meanwhile, has continued to make progress in its nuclear weapons program.

Trump has claimed the summits with Kim as a foreign policy success, saying they had prevented another war on the peninsula



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

A visitor walks in front of a directional sign showing the distance to North Korea's Kaesong city and South Korea's capital Seoul near the wire fences decorated with ribbons written with messages wishing for the reunification of the two Koreas at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, South Korea, on Sunday.

by ending months of long-range missile and nuclear tests by the North.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son Gwon essentially declared diplomacy dead in a statement marking the anniversary of the summit Friday.

Hopes for improved North Korean-U.S. relations have "now been shifted into despair" and

"even a slim ray of optimism for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula has faded away into a dark nightmare," Ri was quoted as saying by KCNA.

He also warned that the professed good relationship between Kim and Trump was at risk if Washington maintains economic pressure against the North.

"The question is whether there

will be a need to keep holding hands shaken in Singapore, as we see that there is nothing of factual improvement to be made simply by maintaining personal relations" between the two leaders," Ri said.

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West Point graduates its first observant Sikh woman



LAUREN E. KARDLER/U.S. Army

Second Lt. Anmol Narang

Associated Press

ROSWELL, Ga. — The United States Military Academy at West Point made history Saturday when the first observant Sikh woman to successfully complete the path to a four-year degree graduated.

Second Lt. Anmol Narang is a second-generation immigrant born and raised in Roswell, Ga. She did a year of undergraduate study at the Georgia Institute of Technology before transferring to West Point, where she graduated Saturday with a degree in nuclear engineering. She hopes to pursue a career in air defense systems.

"I am excited and honored to be fulfilling my dream of graduating from West Point," Narang said in a news release from the Sikh Coalition, a nonprofit based in New York that works to protect the consti-

titutional right to practice faith without fear. "The confidence and support of my community back home in Georgia has been deeply meaningful to me, and I am humbled that in reaching this goal, I am showing other Sikh Americans that any career path is possible for anyone willing to rise to the challenge."

Narang will complete her Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sill in Lawton, Okla., officials said. Following that, she will then head to her first post in Okinawa, Japan, in January.

Other Sikhs have graduated from the academy, but the coalition says Narang is the first observant Sikh woman to do so.

Congress passed a law in 1987 that prohibited Sikhs and other religious communities from maintaining their articles of faith while in the military. A Sikh's visible

articles of faith, including turbans and unshorn facial hair, were banned.

Narang required no accommodation for her articles of faith, but the coalition said "her exemplary service to date underscores how diversity and pluralism remain core strengths of the U.S. military and the country as a whole."

U.S. Army Capt. Simratpal Singh, a family friend, said he is proud of Narang, who is "breaking a barrier for any Sikh American who wishes to serve."

"The broader acceptance of Sikh service members among all of the service branches, as well as in top tier leadership spaces like West Point, will continue to benefit not just the rights of religious minority individuals, but the strength and diversity of the U.S. military," he said.

Iraqi army says 2 rockets hit base near Baghdad, no casualties

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two rockets hit an Iraqi base frequented by U.S. troops north of Baghdad late Saturday without causing any casualties, Iraq's military said, the third such attack this month and just days after Washington and Baghdad launched strategic talks.

The Katyusha rockets struck Camp Taji and caused minor damage but no injuries, according

to the Iraqi military statement. In March, two Americans and one British soldier were killed following a barrage of rockets on Camp Taji, which has been used as a training base for a number of years.

The first session of the much-anticipated strategic talks between the U.S. and Iraq began Thursday, and is to lay the agenda for the months ahead, including the presence of U.S. troops in the country, Iran-backed militia

groups acting outside of the state and Iraq's dire economic crisis.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David Schenker, in comments to reporters in Washington following the session, said Iraq had committed to "moving ahead and undertaking their obligations," with regards to militia attacks targeting the American presence.

Saturday's attack appears to have been a test of this commitment. A statement from Iraq's

joint operations command following the attack said orders had been given to launch an investigation "to reveal these entities that, despite our warnings to them, seek to weaken Iraq."

A day before the talks began, a rocket landed a few hundred yards from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone.

Another rocket attack on Tuesday struck the periphery of Baghdad's airport, which includes a

military base used by U.S. troops. There were no reported casualties or damage.

The U.S. has accused Iran-backed militias of carrying out such attacks in the past. Several attacks targeted U.S. interests early in March, including three military bases known to house U.S. troops. The U.S.-led coalition has withdrawn from several bases across Iraq in a planned drawdown.

MILITARY

'Fighting Fitz' ready to rejoin Pacific Fleet

By **AARON KIDD**
Stars and Stripes

The USS Fitzgerald is on its way to San Diego, where it will rejoin the Pacific Fleet after spending more than two years undergoing extensive collision repairs and equipment upgrades in Mississippi.

Seven sailors were killed when the guided-missile destroyer collided with a commercial container vessel, the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal, off Japan's coast on June 17, 2017.

On Saturday, the warship departed the Ingalls Shipbuilding facility in Pascagoula, Miss., for its new homeport at Naval Base San Diego, a Navy statement said. It had been assigned to the 7th Fleet at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, at the time of the accident.

"Today the 'Fighting Fitz' is returning to the Pacific Fleet as one of our nation's most capable warfighting platforms, marking a significant step in her return to warfighting readiness," Rear

Adm. Eric Ver Hage, the Navy's surface ship maintenance and modernization commander, said in the statement.

The repairs and modernizations ended up costing the Navy \$523 million, USNI News reported Saturday. The work was originally expected to top out at \$368 million and take two years instead of two and a half.

In February, the Fitzgerald went to sea for a trial run and to evaluate its navigation, damage control, combat and propulsion systems. Once in San Diego, it will begin crew training and certifications required for it to officially restart patrols.

Blame for the collision fell on the commanding officer at the time, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, and Lt. Natalie Combs, a tactical action officer, who were initially charged with negligent dereliction of duty resulting in death and negligent hazarding of a vessel. The charges were dropped last year and the two were instead



U.S. Navy

The guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald prepares to depart a shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., to head for its new homeport in San Diego on Saturday.

censured by the Navy. Benson retired in December; a Navy panel in January ruled that Combs could do the same.

Two months after the Fitzgerald incident, the guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain, also based at Yokosuka, collided near Singapore with a commercial tanker, the Alnic MC, killing 10 sailors. The McCain underwent extensive repairs and is back in service.

A Navy report in late 2017 cited crew exhaustion, skipped certifications, poor watch-standing and training and manning problems among the causes of the collision, which the report concluded was preventable.

The Fitzgerald returns to sea about a week after a federal judge dismissed two lawsuits brought by survivors and sailors' families seeking more than \$287 million from the ship company that chartered the ACX Crystal.

The suits, filed in the U.S. District Court of Eastern Louisiana, said that the sailors endured mental anguish, lost wages, pain and suffering and "pre-death fright."

U.S. District Judge Lance Africk in New Orleans granted NYK Line's motion to dismiss, saying that U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over the cases. The company "cannot be deemed 'at home' in every country in which it operates," according to the ruling.

NYK Line maintains less than 6% of its employees and generates less than 10% of its revenue in the U.S., Africk wrote.

The plaintiffs' attorney, David Schloss, plans to appeal the decision.

"It simply cannot be the case that the United States has no interest in providing a forum for the seven families who lost their loved ones and the more than 40 Fitzgerald sailors who suffer debilitating physical and psychological injuries, all in the name of serving their country," he told Stars and Stripes in an email on June 5.

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Ready: Convergence of 3 carrier strike groups in Indo-Pacific is unusual

FROM FRONT PAGE

Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The Chinese will definitely portray this as an example of U.S. provocations, and as evidence that the U.S. is a source of instability in the region."

President Donald Trump, criticized for his handling of the coronavirus outbreak, has condemned China for what he sees as a failure to adequately warn the world about the COVID-19 threat. The administration has also moved to ban Chinese graduate students and researchers with links to China's army or other security services from the U.S.

The convergence of three carrier strike groups in the region is unusual because of the limited number of carriers and the fact that they are often cycling through repair schedules, port visits, training or deployments to other parts of the world. Last week, however, Navy commanders said that they were able to take advantage of the timing, particularly during this period of great power competition with China.

The U.S. national defense strategy cites China as a top security concern, and Pentagon leaders have been working to shift more resources and military assets to the region to battle what they see as Beijing's growing economic influence and military might.



JASON TARLETON/U.S. Navy

An E-2D Hawkeye prepares to take off from the flight deck of the USS Ronald Reagan in the Indo-Pacific region.

"The ability to be present in a strong way is part of the competition. And as I always tell my guys here, you've got to be present to win when you're competing," said Rear Adm. Stephen Koehler, director of operations at Indo-Pacific Command. "Carriers and carrier strike groups will large are phenomenal symbols of American naval power. I really am pretty fired up that we've got three of them at the moment."

Speaking to The Associated Press from his office in Hawaii, Koehler said that China is slowly and methodically building up military outposts in the South China Sea, putting missile and electron-

ic warfare systems on them. The U.S. and other allies and partners in the region have beefed up operations near the human-made islands to try to blunt China's development, but none of that has appeared to work.

Koehler said that most recently, China deployed aircraft to Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratly Islands and is now operating them out of there.

On Thursday, the strike group warships were spread out across the Indo-Pacific. The USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group are operating in the Philippine Sea near Guam. The USS Nimitz strike group is in the Pa-

cific off the U.S. West Coast. The USS Ronald Reagan has left port in Japan and is operating in the Philippine Sea south of there. Navy commanders were quick to point out that dozens of other Navy ships had been operating around the Pacific, but the three strike groups put a bit of an exclamation point on America's commitment to the region and its allies.

The Roosevelt has just returned to duty after spending more than two months sidelined in Guam with a massive COVID-19 outbreak among its crew. And small numbers of sailors on the Nimitz and the Reagan tested positive for the virus, triggering quarantines and extensive new health and safety procedures that had to be instituted before the ships could deploy.

As they deploy, sailors' daily lives on the ships and, to some degree, their operations at sea have been altered by the virus and the new precautions they must take to ensure the ships remain clear of infection and able to continue operations.

Onboard the Nimitz, Rear Adm. Jim Kirk said that there have been no positive cases of the virus on the ship since it set out, and he is confident of all the changes put in place to keep it that way. On the Nimitz and the other Pacific ships, crew members are screened daily, they wear masks

where needed, meal hours have been extended to allow for more social distancing and specific routes are designated on the ship to prevent sailors from bumping into one another in the narrow passageways and stairs.

"As we head out to stand the watch, the message that I have is that this is the end of the beginning" for the crew, said Kirk, commander of Carrier Strike Group 11. "Now it's time to go about doing our job to the best of our abilities."

Koehler said that the ships will continue to work with allies and partners in the region, conducting exercises at sea and patrolling contested regions. One key change, however, will be their ability to stop in foreign ports.

The port visits have been largely curtailed, except to carefully supply up supplies when necessary. Guam has been designated the only safe harbor for port stops in the Pacific so far, and sailors have limited freedom to go to the pier and cannot travel freely in the city. Navy leaders are looking into establishing other safe havens, but haven't approved them yet.

This is, said Koehler, "the new normal." And he said that while it's not likely there will be three carrier strike groups consistently in the Pacific over the long term, "it's something we can do when we want to."

VIRUS OUTBREAK

US military tests S. Korea arrivals right away

By MATTHEW KEELER

Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Spc. Keith Peterson was fresh off the Patriot Express at Osan when he lined up for a coronavirus screening, including a swab pushed deep into his nasal cavity.

He didn't exactly enjoy the experience. "My eyes are still watering from it," the chemical specialist from New London, Conn., said immediately after the test Wednesday. "It wasn't great."

Nonetheless, Peterson was impressed by the proficiency displayed by the medical technicians administering the tests.

"COVID is a new thing and these guys are going through the motions like they have been doing it for years," Peterson said, referring to COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

Medical professionals from the air base and the Army's Camp Humphreys are testing all inbound U.S. military personnel within two hours of their stepping off arriving flights, according to an agreement with the South Korean government.

So far, seven service members who've arrived on the Patriot Express have tested positive for the coronavirus since May 8.

Service members and their families approved for travel despite a Defense Department stop-movement order arrive regularly in South Korea at Osan or on commercial flights to Incheon International Airport.

The South Korean government mandates any international arrivals have a 14-day quarantine,



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Brook Shoemaker, a combat medic, swabs a service member upon arrival at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Wednesday.

said Lt. Col. Christine Jones, the 7th Air Force medical planner. "Through the status of forces agreement or SOFA, we have special agreements that allow them to come in and quarantine with us."

Most incoming personnel arrive on the Patriot Express, a government-chartered flight that lands at Osan. The few exceptions that arrive at Incheon are taken

by the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron to the Osan terminal, where they are screened.

All international arrivals are questioned about their recent contacts and symptoms, processed through customs and immigration and swabbed for coronavirus.

Airmen are quarantined at either Osan or Kunsan Air Base, while soldiers and sailors are

relocated to Camp Humphreys to wait out the two-week period. Jones estimates roughly 400 service members and families are currently in quarantine.

After completing the mandatory quarantine, everyone is tested a second time before being released.

Recent flights have been relatively small at about 120 passengers, allowing the medical teams

to tweak the program before the stop-movement order is lifted and peak military movement season approaches.

"We are expecting to process thousands in just the next two months," Air Force Capt. Gregory Smith, a medical screening officer, said Wednesday. "Between now and the end of August it's probably going to be well over 5,000 personnel."

The Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital on Camp Humphreys can process just over 200 tests a day, Jones said. Another 2,000 tests could be outsourced to the Seoul Reference Lab if needed.

Jones said the hospital expects to receive a new Panther Fusion System in July, which will expand testing capabilities to over 800 coronavirus tests daily. The system will deliver results faster and reduce the need to rely on outside testing.

The screening team will soon be trained on thermal imaging devices, another tool to screen arriving passengers quickly.

Even after DOD lifts or amends its travel policies, U.S. Forces Korea must abide by travel requirements put in place by South Korea.

"I don't see Korea giving up their bubble. I see them mandating the quarantine and testing for the very foreseeable future," Jones said. "Korea as a country has done phenomenal, in my opinion, probably the best in the entire world. They have created that bubble and don't want to lose that."

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Army selects vaccine candidate; trials set for summer

By TARA COPP

AND MICHAEL WILNER
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Army scientists have a vaccine candidate that they believe has the potential to fight COVID-19 — and that may be able to protect individuals from future coronaviruses, "from season to season, for decades to come."

The scientists at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research chose SpFn, for Spike Ferritin Nanoparticle, after testing dozens of variants of vaccine candidates in more than 1,000 mice.

"It was a real sense of relief" to discover a strong vaccine candidate, Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, director of Walter Reed's Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch, said in an exclusive interview with McClatchy. "Our team has not taken a day off in three, four months since this all started. After we got that result I said, 'you know, we can at least take one day off.'"

Their progress comes as cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, topped 2 million in the United States, and

'We wanted to make sure we were developing a vaccine that would address coronaviruses in the future.'

Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad

director, Walter Reed's Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch

21 states have seen an increase in positive cases in recent weeks.

SpFn differs from other vaccines under development, in that it uses a soccer-ball-shaped protein that allows scientists to harness the spikes of multiple coronavirus strains on 24 different faces of the protein. That attracted a stronger immune system response in tests with mice than other approaches, where there was only one spike of the coronavirus inserted on a vaccine candidate.

"The one that we selected from all those different versions, is one that actually, even after giving one dose, looks much better than if you were to give just the spike protein alone, which is in other vaccines — if you gave multiple doses of that vaccine — one dose

of our vaccine looks better already," Modjarrad said.

This vaccine also has the potential to fight off future variants of the coronavirus because different versions of the virus can be put on the spikes, he said.

"You can mix-and-match the different spikes you put on that particle, that soccer ball, so you have different coronavirus strains on there," Modjarrad said. "If things look good for our vaccine, we hope that it'll be complementing the vaccines that are already out there as a long-term approach from season to season, for decades to come."

The result may be a vaccine that can offer protection against future strains of the virus, he said.

"We wanted to make sure we were developing a vaccine that would address coronaviruses in the future — either this coronavirus that would mutate into other strains potentially from season to season, like we see with flu, or other coronaviruses that are out there now that don't cause as severe a disease, or inevitably what we anticipate to be more coronaviruses that come in the future," Modjarrad said. "We can use this platform as a universal approach to address all those coronaviruses."

The vaccine, like many others under development, is being fast-tracked. Now that it has been vetted for generating an immune system response, it will move into further testing, involving monkeys, to see if the vaccine protects them against the virus.

At the same time, it will move into a manufacturing phase, where samples of the vaccine will be further reviewed to meet government safety standards, to have supplies of the vaccine on hand and ready to go for initial human trials in the summer.

If those limited trials work, the

vaccine will go into more widespread human trials in the fall and early winter, Modjarrad said.

It will take additional research — tracking people who receive the vaccine candidate — to know how long immunity will last, and whether individuals would need to receive this vaccine on a recurring basis, like a flu shot, or whether it could be a one-time shot, he said.

Four major private-sector companies — Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson and Sanofi — are also currently in human trials with vaccine candidates of their own.

Those candidates are the focus of Operation Warp Speed, an all-of-government push for the discovery and development of a coronavirus vaccine by the end of this year.

While President Donald Trump has pushed an aggressive timetable for vaccine development, immunologists and virologists outside of government have questioned the likelihood of achieving a vaccine that is proven to be effective, long-lasting, safe and widely accessible before 2021.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Many European borders open for domestic travel

Associated Press

BERLIN — Europe is taking a big step toward a new normalcy as many countries open borders to fellow Europeans after three months of coronavirus lockdowns — but even though Europeans love their summer vacations, it's not clear how many are ready to travel again.

Tourists from the U.S., Asia, Latin American and the Mideast will just have to wait, for now. The European Union home affairs commissioner, Ylva Johansson, told member nations that they "should open up as soon as possible" and suggested Monday was a good date.

Many countries are doing just that, allowing travel from the EU, Britain and the rest of Europe's usually passport-free Schengen travel area, which includes non-EU countries like Switzerland.

Europe's reopening won't be a repeat of the chaotic free-for-all in March when panicked, uncoordinated border closures caused traffic jams that stretched for miles. Still, it's a complicated,

shifting patchwork of different rules. And although tourist regions are desperately counting on them, a lot of Europeans may decide to stay close to home this summer.

That's something tourism-dependent Mediterranean countries such as Greece are keen to avoid. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis acknowledged Saturday that "a lot will depend on whether people feel comfortable to travel and whether we can project Greece as a safe destination."

Greece has emphasized its handling of its outbreak, which saw only 183 deaths.

Spain, which isn't ending restrictions on domestic travel for another week and will restart for foreign tourism in full on July 1, is allowing thousands of Germans to fly to its Balearic Islands for a two-week trial run starting Monday — waiving its 14-day quarantine for the group.

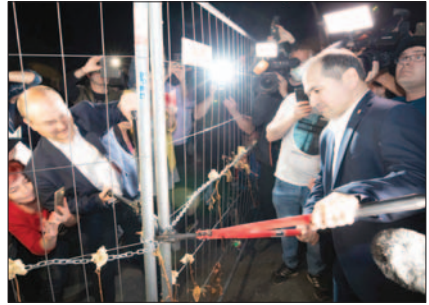
Border checks in some places have already wound down. Italy opened its borders June 3 and towns on the German-Polish bor-

der celebrated early Saturday as Poland opened the gates. At midnight, the mayors of Gorlitz, Germany, and Zgorzelec, Poland, cut through chains on a makeshift fence that had divided the towns.

Germany, like France and others, is lifting remaining border checks Monday and scrapping a requirement that arrivals must prove they have a good reason to enter. It also is easing a worldwide warning against nonessential travel to exempt European countries — except, probably, Finland, Norway and Spain, where travel restrictions remain, and Sweden, where the level of new coronavirus infections is deemed too high.

Many German regions have reimposed a quarantine requirement for arrivals from Sweden, whose virus strategy avoided a lockdown but produced a relatively high death rate.

Czech authorities will require arrivals from Sweden to show a negative COVID-19 test or to self-quarantine — along with travelers from Portugal and Poland's



DANIEL SCHAFER, DPA/AP

Octavian Ursu, right, Lord Mayor of Gorlitz, and Rafal Gronicz, Mayor of Zgorzelec, Poland, cut through a makeshift border fence on the Gorlitz Old Town Bridge on Friday in Gorlitz, Germany.

Silesia region.

Drugmaker AstraZeneca struck a deal Saturday to supply up to 400 million doses of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine to European Union countries, the latest in a series of agreements as scientists, governments and pharmaceutical companies race to combat the virus.

AstraZeneca plans to begin delivering the vaccine to European countries by the end of this year under the agreement with the Inclusive Vaccine Alliance, formed this month by France, Germany,

Italy and the Netherlands. All other EU member states will have the chance to take part under the same terms as the original alliance members.

The deal is the latest in a series of agreements to produce the vaccine — even though it is not certain it will work to prevent coronavirus infections. Because of the desperate need for a vaccine amid the pandemic that has killed more than 425,000 people worldwide, AstraZeneca is scaling up manufacturing with human trials still under way.

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STARS AND STRIPES.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Bases ease limits
as USFJ lowers
health-risk levelBy CATLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. Forces Japan has moved its health protection condition from “substantial” to “moderate,” commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider announced in a video posted Friday on Facebook.

The change prompted loosened coronavirus-related restrictions for U.S. service members, Defense Department civilians and their families across the country.

The moderate level, known as HPCON-Bravo, represents progress in the fight against the virus, indicating there is a risk of “increased community transmission,” according to DOD. That’s a step down from HPCON-Charlie, which USFJ has been under since March 25 and indicates “substantial risk” of the coronavirus spread.

HPCON-Charlie came with heightened restrictions and shelter-in-place orders for Japan bases. For many, movement outside the home for anything other than essential business or activities such as work, grocery shopping or medical appointments was prohibited.

“I know how difficult it has been to endure shelter-in-place orders, restrictions on movement, social distancing, travel restrictions and more, but we’ve been highly effective in checking the spread of COVID-19 and preserving our ability to maintain a trained and ready force,” Schneider said in the video. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by coronavirus.

Still, Schneider said the move does not mean precautions are no longer necessary; the use of face masks, regular handwashing and social distancing remain important.

“This is not a return to life as

normal as it was in January and we are not finished dealing with the challenges of the virus,” he said.

Eased rules

Group limits were relaxed at many bases Friday, as long as attendees stay 6 feet away from each other. Up to 50 people may gather at Misawa Air Base; up to 20 at Yokota Air Base; and up to 10 at Yokosuka, which spent nearly three months under an order that barred contact between households.

The home of 7th Fleet has been under the strictest restrictions among U.S. bases in Japan since March 27, when the first USFJ-related coronavirus case was reported there.

Keeping the number of contacts low is important to mitigating the spread, Yokosuka commander Capt. Rich Jarrett said Thursday via Facebook Live. When someone tests positive for the virus, all those who have been in recent contact with the patient must go into isolation.

“One of the struggles that we faced here as we were getting our feet wet with COVID-19 cases is one person had been around so many people that they were taking 30 to 40 people into quarantine with them,” he said.

The number of active coronavirus cases at Yokosuka has dwindled to the single-digits and “several weeks” have passed since a new case was reported on base, Jarrett said during the livestream.

The Defense Department on March 28 prohibited commanders from publicly reporting new cases of coronavirus on their installations. Before the ban, Yokosuka reported at least three sailors contracted the virus; in April, the Army reported five Jap-



THORON GODDOL/Stars and Stripes

Customers stand in line inside the food court at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo on Friday.

anese workers and a dependent at Camp Zama tested positive. Recreational shopping is also now allowed for Yokosuka and Misawa, where residents had been restricted to essential items only.

Yokosuka resident Margaux Burke, whose husband has been deployed on the USS Anitama since February, said “all I had been wanting to do is go to a hardware store.”

“I have been really bored, sad and lonely this whole time and gardening was one of the things that kept me preoccupied,” Burke said. “Now I can finally go and get more stuff.”

Remaining restrictions

Some activities remain prohibited across Japan, such as visiting off-base bars, hotels and tattoo parlors. While Misawa greenlit restaurants with less than 50% occupancy Friday, off-base dining remains banned for Yokosuka personnel and families.

However, some installations are creating opportunities on base for some indoor and outdoor dining. At Yokosuka, officials opened a weekend beer garden for those thirsty for a bar-like setting.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government lifted its coronavirus alert Thursday night, it said on Twitter. Issued June 2 after a spike in cases, the alert urged

the public to stay vigilant against coronavirus. The DOD’s New Sanno hotel in Tokyo will reopen July 1 for those stationed in Japan, but only half of its 149 guest rooms will be available to rent, according to its website.

Most Defense Department personnel and their families are restricted from going into highly populated cities. For example, those at Yokosuka must stay within the Miura peninsula and are barred from visiting Kamakura, Yokohama and Tokyo, while Sasebo residents must remain within Nagasaki prefecture.

Naval Air Facility Atsugi personnel and families are restricted to a 3.1-mile radius of the base or their homes and those at Misawa should stay within 12.4 miles of base.

Navy-wide, personnel are also restricted at least to their prefectures, but those limits will be extended after June 19, Naval Forces Japan commander Rear Adm. Brian Fort said in a video posted to Facebook on Friday.

Service members stationed at Camp Zama, Sagami General Depot and Yokohama North Dock may travel within most of Kanagawa prefecture and part of Tokyo, U.S. Army Japan commander Maj. Gen. Viet Luong said last week.

Personnel at Yokota in western Tokyo remain banned from

the city’s downtown metropolitan area, including the popular Shibuya, Shinjuku and Roppongi wards. However, they may now visit the towns of Ome, Iruma, Fuchu, Tama, Hachioji, Tachikawa and Okutama after being restricted to the vicinity of their homes and base.

Japanese police are targeting Americans in Tokyo for ID checks, Jarrett said during Thursday’s livestream. Two Yokosuka sailors who sneaked to the city were caught and sent back to base after Japanese officers questioned them.

“One thing I learned from this incident is that [Japanese police] don’t want us there either,” he said. “As an American or somebody from a Western country, you stand out from the crowd — and when you stand out from the crowd right now, you are coming from a country with the highest rate of infection in the world.”

Tokyo metropolitan and Kanagawa prefectural police Friday told Stars and Stripes they were unaware of officers specifically looking for foreigners in Yokohama or Tokyo.

Stars and Stripes reporters Hana Kusumoto and Seth Robson contributed to this report.
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China, S. Korea, Egypt report rise in cases as curbs ease

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — China reported its highest daily total of new coronavirus cases in two months Sunday and infections in South Korea rose, showing how the disease can come back as curbs on business and travel are lifted.

Elsewhere, governments including Egypt, Ukraine and North Macedonia have reported their highest single-day totals of new infections since Friday. In the United States, case numbers are rising in some states as President Donald Trump pushes to reopen businesses despite warnings by public health experts.

The world is seeing more than 100,000 newly confirmed cases every day, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

China had 57 new confirmed cases in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday, the National Health Commission reported. That was the highest since mid-April and included 36 in the capital, Beijing, a city of 20 million people.

Beijing’s cases all were linked to its biggest wholesale food market, which was shut down Saturday, the official China News Service reported, citing the city’s disease control agency. It said 27 worked there and nine had direct or indirect exposure to it.

The Xinfadi market was closed after 50

people tested positive for the virus in the Chinese capital’s first confirmed cases in 50 days.

China, where the pandemic began in December, and other countries that suffered early on including South Korea, Italy and Spain have seen numbers of new infections decline. Brazil, India, the United States and other countries are seeing large increases.

China eased most limits on business and travel after declaring victory over the disease in March. Some curbs still are in place including a ban on most foreign travelers arriving in the country.

South Korea’s government reported 34 more cases, adding to an upward trend in infections.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 30 were in the greater Seoul area, where half of the country’s 51 million people live. New cases have been linked to nightlife establishments, church services, an e-commerce warehouse and door-to-door sellers.

On Saturday, Egypt’s Health Ministry announced 1,677 new confirmed cases. The Arab world’s most populous country has its highest coronavirus death toll at 1,484 among 42,980 confirmed cases.

Also Saturday, Ukraine reported 753 new cases, more than double the daily count earlier this month. Authorities in North Macedonia reported 196 cases.

NATION

Protesters in US call attention to deaths of more black men

By RUSS BYNUM
And ED WHITE
Associated Press

The fatal shooting of a black man by a white Atlanta police officer and the death of another black man found hanging from a tree outside a city hall in California ignited new anti-racism protests over the weekend.

Early Sunday, Atlanta police announced that an officer, Garrett Rolfe, had been fired following the fatal shooting of Rayshard Brooks, 27, on Friday night, and another officer, Devin Brosnan, had been placed on administrative duty. On Saturday, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms had called for the immediate firing of the officer who opened fire on Brooks and announced that she had accepted the resignation of Police Chief Erika Shields.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force," Bottoms said.

Roughly 150 protesters marched outside the Wendy's restaurant where Brooks was shot, reigniting demonstrations that had largely simmered in the Georgia capital nearly three weeks after George Floyd, another black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck. Both Rolfe and Brosnan are white.

The Wendy's was set aflame at one point Saturday night, although the fire was out before midnight. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said that Brooks, who was seen on body camera video sleeping in a car blocking the Wendy's drive thru, failed a sobriety test and was shot in a struggle over a police Taser.

In Palmdale, Calif., hundreds of people Saturday marched to demand an investigation into the death of Robert Fuller, 24, who was found hanging from a tree early Wednesday near city hall. The protesters marched from where the body was found to a sheriff's station, with many carrying signs that said "Justice for Robert Fuller."

Authorities said the death appeared to be a suicide, but an autopsy was planned.

Fuller's death has brought to light the death of another black man found hanging from a tree on May 31 in Victorville, a desert city 45 miles east of Palmdale. A sheriff's spokeswoman, Jodi Miller, told Victor Valley News foul play was not suspected in the death of Malcolm Harsch, 38, but the man's family said they were concerned it will be ruled a suicide to avoid further attention.

Protesters in New Orleans tore down a bust of a slave owner Saturday who left part of his fortune



PHOTOS BY BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

"RIP Rayshard" is spray painted on a sign as flames engulf a Wendy's restaurant during protests Saturday in Atlanta. The restaurant was where Rayshard Brooks was shot and killed by police Friday evening following a struggle in the restaurant's drive-thru line.

to New Orleans' schools and then took the remains to the Mississippi River and rolled it down the banks into the water.

The toppling of the bust of John McDonogh was yet another episode in the rapidly unfolding movement to take down Confederate statues in the U.S. and reassess monuments to historical figures worldwide.

Also Saturday, members of the Clemson University football team led hundreds of demonstrators on the school's campus in South Carolina. The march came a day after Clemson trustees voted to rename its honors college, stripping from the program the name of former vice president and slavery proponent John C. Calhoun.



Protesters block traffic during protests Saturday near the Atlanta Wendy's where Rayshard Brooks was shot and killed by police Friday evening following a struggle.

Marine veteran arrested for impersonating an officer

By RICARDO TORRES-CORTEZ
Las Vegas Sun

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran showed up to a George Floyd protest in Las Vegas heavily armed, wearing tactical gear, night vision goggles and insignia that suggested he was a federal agent.

He even stood side by side with officers in a "skirmish line," facing agitated protesters.

But he isn't an agent or an officer, and last week Zachary Sanns was arrested on a federal charge of false impersonation of an officer or employee of the United States, according to court documents.

Investigators also learned he was married to a Metro Police officer, and had illicitly embedded himself in her patrols in the past. He also tried incorporating himself in department training.

A Las Vegas Review-Journal photograph showing Sanns' tattoos led to the investigation that uncovered the alleged crime. The images quickly spread on social media, with one tattoo identifying him as a Marine and another of the letters "SS" in a font used by Nazis in WWII to identify the Schutzstaffel, a military unit under the Nazis.

People were outraged that a Nazi sympathizer had been in police ranks as they faced off with protesters already decrying police brutality and racism following Floyd's death in Minneapolis, the complaint said. The logo, appropriated by an elite sniper unit in the Marines, has become a point of contention within the Marine Corps.

Sanns' wife's patrol unit was familiar with him, and they were under the impression he was some sort of federal agent, the complaint said. At least once he said he was in the CIA.

On May 30, Sanns and his wife's sergeant were together when the unit was dispatched to downtown Las Vegas for the third

day of protests, the complaint said. The sergeant recalled seeing Sanns heading to the protest with blue police lights on the grill of his truck.

When he confronted Sanns there, the sergeant said, Sanns told him that his boss in the federal government had allowed him to "self-deploy."

At the protest, Clark County Deputy Chief James Seebok and Assistant Sheriff Chris Jones confronted him on separate occasions, asking Sanns what he was doing there. In explaining why they believed he was an agent, one cited the patches on his tactical vest, and the other a badge.

Aside from the photos of his tattoos, Sanns was further identified after he'd filed a complaint stating that he'd been mistreated by Metro officers, who also had allegedly "blown kisses" at his wife during one of her patrols, in which he was present.

During his arrest, Sanns said he was an "off the books" federal contractor, but denied saying he was an agent, the complaint said. He said he'd asked his wife's sergeant if they needed help at the protest, for which he allegedly replied "they could never turn down help from someone like (him)."

He also denied using police lights.

Officer charged in Floyd's death eligible for pension money

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is eligible to receive pension benefits during his retirement years even if he's convicted of the George Floyd shooting, according to the Minnesota agency that represents retired public workers.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter in the May 25 death of George. Video of the arrest shows Chauvin, who is white, using his knee to pin down the neck of Floyd, who was

black and handcuffed, for several minutes as Floyd pleaded for air and eventually stopped moving. Floyd's death has sparked protests around the world.

The Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association said in a statement that former

employees who meet length-of-service requirements qualify for benefits regardless of whether they quit or are fired. Those payments are not affected by criminal charges or convictions, the agency said, citing state law.

A review of police payroll,

salary and contract information obtained by CNN estimates that Chauvin's annual payments would be around \$50,000 or more if he elected to begin receiving distributions at age 55. Chauvin was a member of the Minneapolis police force for 19 years.

NATION

New Zealand, Japan protest to mourn Floyd, seek change

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO — Holding handmade signs that read “Black Lives Matter,” hundreds of people marched peacefully in Tokyo on Sunday, highlighting the outrage over the death of George Floyd even in a country often perceived as homogeneous and untouched by racial issues.

Mitsuaki Shidara, standing in the crowd at Yoyogi Park, where the march began, said Japan has plenty of discrimination problems, but they’re overlooked. “We are all human first, but we are divided by nationality, gender, religion, skin color,” he said, wearing a pendant with the Japanese character for “love,” which he said was his favorite word.

“What’s happening in the U.S. shows racism is going on, even after 400 years,” said Shidara, who works for a food maker.

Mio Kosaka, another participant, said she had been a victim of discrimination at times while growing up in Beijing and Tokyo, because her parents were Japanese and Chinese.

“I think it is so wrong to discriminate based on appearance, and I wanted to relay the message that the American people have allies in Japan,” said Kosaka, who is studying design at a U.S. college. “Some people don’t even know there is discrimination. Awareness needs to be raised,” she added.

Protests have continued across

the U.S. but also in Europe, including Belgium, Germany and Britain, as well as Australia, where people have been confronting racism and demanding change.

The demonstrators were pushed into action by the May 25 death of Floyd, a black man who said he could not breathe as a white Minneapolis police officer pushed his knee against his neck for nearly 9 minutes.

In New Zealand, thousands protested in Auckland and Wellington on Sunday. The Auckland protest began at the central Aotea Square and ended at the U.S. Consulate, where people took a knee and observed a minute of silence for Floyd.

“When George Floyd took his last breath, it allowed the rest of us to breathe,” social activist Julia Whaipooti told the crowd, according to the news organization Stuff.

Sunday’s turnout in Tokyo underlined how Japan has historically been reticent in dealing with diversity and is now trying to understand the Black Lives Matter movement and grapple with its own history of discrimination.

Such attitudes date back to the feudal era, with the Buraku underclass, and include more recently the offspring of marriages between Japanese and non-Japanese. The children are called “hafu,” derived from “half,” which critics resent as discriminatory.



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Demonstrators attend the “This is solidarity” demonstration of the movement *Unteilbar* (Indivisible), Sunday in Berlin. The demonstration against racism, anti-semitism and discrimination is supported by several anti-racism and anti-fascism organizations.

Thousands in Berlin form a human chain against racism

Associated Press

BERLIN — Thousands of people formed a human chain through Berlin on Sunday in a message against racism, discrimination and social inequality among other causes.

Organizers of Sunday’s “Indivisible” demonstration, who planned a 5-mile chain from the Brandenburg Gate southeast to the Neukölln neighborhood, were told to require participants to wear masks. Protesters also were asked to keep well apart.

They were linked by colored ribbons, forming what organizers called a “ribbon of solidarity.” People appeared to keep to the hygiene restrictions during the event, which lasted a bit over an hour.

Police put the number of participants at about 5,000, while organizers estimated it at over 20,000. There were smaller demonstrations in other German cities.

Berlin recently lifted coronavirus-related limits on the number of people who can attend demonstrations, though people are still

required to keep at least five feet apart in public.

Last weekend, at least 15,000 people attended an anti-racism protest, in some cases closely packed together. That prompted criticism from officials, although they expressed understanding for the cause. It was one of many demonstrations worldwide in the aftermath of the May 25 death of George Floyd, a black man, who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck.

Other countries have narrowed police role, boosted other services

By KARLA ADAM AND RICK NOACK
The Washington Post

Amid the protest wave following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the rallying cry of “defund the police” has gained momentum.

President Donald Trump is “appalled” by the movement, according to White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany. To some critics, it sounds radical.

But advocates say it is simply about narrowing the role of police and investing in services specifically designed to address issues such as mental health, rehabilitation and homelessness.

Much of what U.S. advocates are calling for has been tried in other countries, researchers say, offering models that the United States could consider and potentially adapt.

“There’s absolutely scope for the U.S. police forces to take a more integrated approach to how they serve their communities,” said Megan O’Neill, an expert on community policing at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

She said that in most European countries, policing isn’t viewed primarily from

‘What’s missing from current discussions is we can’t just take money from policing and put it somewhere else.’

Megan O’Neill
Community policing expert, University of Dundee

a top-down, law-enforcement perspective, but rather as part of a bigger solution to social problems. “It’s not: There’s a problem, send the police. It’s: There’s a problem, let’s work together to find a solution,” she said. “Policing is seen as a small part of a bigger set of actors in terms of addressing social issues.”

But O’Neill said advocates shouldn’t underestimate cost.

“What’s missing from current discussions is we can’t just take money from policing and put it somewhere else,” she said. “The whole system needs to be very well-resourced; this kind of work is expen-

sive. ... There’s an argument that savings will come later, but it will have an upfront cost.”

■ **In Sweden, health teams instead of police:** Mental health professionals have been deployed since 2015 onto the streets of Stockholm without police officers.

Stockholm’s mental health ambulance — an emergency vehicle with two trained nurses and a driver — seeks to free up police resources, to allow officers to focus on fields they are the experts in, Carlberg said.

■ **In Scotland, violence as public health issue:** In 2005, Glasgow was dubbed the “murder capital of Europe.” Exasperated by the city’s high homicide rates and its notorious booze-and-blade culture, police decided to try something new. They set up a violence reduction unit with a philosophy that violent behavior spreads from person to person; to contain it, you need to interrupt transmission and focus on prevention.

Doctors, nurses, paramedics and oral surgeons travel to schools around Scotland sharing graphic stories about patching people up after knife fights. Former offenders patrol emergency hospital wards looking for people at a “reachable mo-

ment.” Inspired by a youth program in Los Angeles, the police also set up cafes called Street and Arrow, which are staffed by former offenders who gain work experience and have access to on-site mentors.

Glasgow’s homicide rates have dropped dramatically, and although it’s unclear how much of that decrease should be attributed to the violence reduction unit, the model has drawn interest from police forces as far away as Canada and New Zealand.

■ **In Switzerland, alternatives to prison:** The country restructured its justice system in 2007, after its authorities found that short prison sentences do little to deter criminals from reoffending and can even have the opposite effect. Other proposals include permitting daytime work release for prisoners with short sentences, allowing them to keep their jobs.

■ **In Finland, homeless help:** The country offers homeless people a permanent, stable home. From there, the former homeless are offered access to other support services, such as help with addiction and advice on work placements. Finland is the only country in the European Union where homelessness is on the decline.

NATION

Police confirm bodies as kids missing in Idaho

BY REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The bodies found last week at a rural property in Idaho are those of two children missing since last year, authorities confirmed Saturday.

The Rexburg Police Department issued the press release confirming that remains found on Tuesday have been positively identified by the medical examiner's office as belonging to Joshua "JJ" Vallow, who was 7 when he vanished in September, and his 17-year-old sister Tylee Ryan.

"It is not the outcome we had hoped; to be able to find the children safe," the Rexburg police statement said.

Police discovered the two sets of human remains after issuing a warrant at the home of Chad Daybell, who married the children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, a few weeks after the kids were last seen. Relatives confirmed to the media the next day that it was the children.

For police, the grisly discovery

this week marked a significant break in a monthslong investigation into what happened to the two children.

For relatives, their heartbreak was magnified.

For a cluster of small Idaho towns, it was the denouement of one mystery and the start of another: Where are JJ and Tylee? Right here, and yet irretrievably gone. Why are they gone? That may never be fully answered.

"I never thought it would come to this—I didn't think they were dead," said Timanee Olsen, a specialty cookie baker who has closely followed the case and after hearing about the bodies, planned a vigil to mourn the kids who disappeared from Rexburg. "It's just sparked a lot of sadness in our town."

The children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, has been in jail since February on felony child abandonment and other charges. Her new husband, Chad Daybell, was charged with concealing or destroying the bodies after police searched his rural property



JOHN ROARK, THE IDAHO POST-REGISTER/AP

A boy checks out a memorial for Tylee Ryan, 17, and Joshua "JJ" Vallow, 7, at Porter Park in Rexburg, Idaho, on Thursday.

Tuesday.

"We are filled with unfathomable sadness that these two bright stars were stolen from us, and only hope that they died without pain or suffering," the families wrote in a statement to news outlets last week.

Kay and Larry Woodcock, JJ's grandparents, worked for months to keep the search for kids in the limelight. With last week's discovery, they have withdrawn to grief.

"The family is not doing any interviews right now," said Feli-

cia Dewall, who is acting as their spokeswoman. "They're asking everybody to kind of respect that."

Investigators haven't released any new details since the remains were found. The bodies were sent to Boise for autopsies, and it's not clear when those results will be released.

"It is the most horrendous outcome to the craziest nine-month mystery that I've ever heard of," said Olsen, who organized the vigil with a friend.

"Those kids deserved better,

and we're going to do everything we can to get those kids justice."

Olsen arranged to have the vigil in a parking lot in Idaho Falls, close to the town where the kids lived, hoping it would provide enough space for people to feel connected while remaining socially distant.

People gathered Friday night, wrote notes to the children, burned candles and listened to "In the Arms of an Angel," according to The Idaho Post-Register.

SpaceX launches its ninth batch of Starlink satellites

BY CAROLINE GLENN
Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — An hour before sunrise Saturday, SpaceX launched yet another batch of Starlink satellites from Cape Canaveral, continuing the company's mission to build a constellation of satellites that can deliver high-speed internet to the entire planet.

The launch, which went off as scheduled at 5:21 a.m. from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's launch complex 40, deployed 58 small satellites, loaded inside the pairing of a Falcon 9 rocket, to low-Earth orbit. The satellites deployed and began to fan out about 40 minutes after launch.

Also on board were 3 SkySat satellites, a part of the company's first rideshare mission with Planet Labs, based out of San Francisco.

SpaceX successfully landed the reusable booster, which has flown twice before, on the "Of Course I Still Love You" drone ship about eight minutes after the launch. SpaceX also planned to attempt to catch the falling with its recovery drone ships Ms. Tree and Ms. Chief.

This was the "fastest pad turnover" SpaceX has performed since beginning the Starlink missions, SpaceX said. The last batch of satellites launched just 10 days ago also from launch complex 40.

Saturday's mission was the ninth set of satellites SpaceX has delivered and brings the number circling the Earth to 538. The Federal Communications Commission has approved SpaceX to operate nearly 12,000 of them.

It was the seventh Starlink mission this year, as



MALCOLM DENMARK, FLORIDA TODAY/AP

SpaceX launched its ninth batch of Starlink communication satellites atop its Falcon 9 rocket at 5:21 a.m. Saturday, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Launch Complex 40.

part of SpaceX's aggressive schedule to set up blanket internet coverage for North America by the end of the year. SpaceX aims to have 1,500 Starlinks in low-Earth orbit by the end of 2020 and is targeting "near global coverage" by 2021.

On future Starlink missions, SpaceX plans to accompany the satellites with deployable visors that were tested on the last Starlink launch to prevent light from reflecting off the satellite's antennas and make them less bright.

The first test visor has not yet reached operational orbit, SpaceX said, and it will be a few weeks before results become available.

Va. gun sales increase amid politics, pandemic, protests

BY JANE HARPER
The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

Robert Marcus has owned Bob's Gun Shop in downtown Norfolk, Va., for three decades.

He's seen firearm sales tick up plenty of times over the years, like when there's an election coming or there's some type of social unrest dominating the headlines.

But he's never seen them skyrocket as they have in recent months.

"It's incredible," Marcus said. "There are a lot of extraneous things going on now that have caused guns to become very desirable."

During the first five months of this year, FBI statistics show the number of criminal background check requests submitted for gun sales in Virginia is up 77% compared to the same time period last year. And that doesn't even include the past couple of weeks, which Marcus and others said also have been especially busy.

Purchases first began to increase late last year, when Democrats won the majority of Virginia's legislative seats and vowed to pass more restrictive gun laws, Marcus said. They continued to stay elevated in January when the General Assembly con-

vened in Richmond.

Then in March, the coronavirus pandemic caused many to fear it would lead to civil unrest. Stimulus checks provided by the federal government also made it easier for some to fund their gun purchases.

That's when Marcus and some other local gun shop workers say sales really went through the roof. The FBI conducted 3.7 million background checks for firearm sales across the country in March, the highest total since it began publishing the data in 1998.

It's been the angry and sometimes violent protests across the country the past couple weeks that's spurred the latest surge in sales.

News of some demonstrations ending with violent clashes between police and protesters, as well as vandalism and looting, has led some to worry that police will be too overwhelmed to respond to other emergencies in a timely manner, he said.

Many recent buyers are purchasing their first gun, according to employees at four local stores. Most tend to be interested in weapons best suited for self-defense, like handguns and shotguns.

NATION

Activists cite flaw in Ga.'s mail-in primary ballots

By FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

Faulty software or poorly calibrated vote-tabulation scanners used to count mailed-in ballots in last week's chaotic Georgia primary may have prevented thousands of votes from being counted, election officials and voting integrity activists said.

The issue was identified in at least four counties — DeKalb, Morgan, Clarke and Cherokee — according to officials who discovered them, including activists who have sued the state for alleged election mismanagement.

"The fact that it is in multiple counties tells me that it's probably systemic," said Richard DeMillo, a Georgia Tech computer scientist who has testified for the plaintiffs, because identical scanners and software were used to count all absentee ballots across the state. DeMillo said that the only way to know for sure is through audits.

A top Georgia voting official, voting implementation manager George Sterling, said Friday that he had seen no evidence yet of the issue and found it difficult to believe that the reports were "an active description of what is happening on the ground."

"These are activists who have an axe to grind," he said.

Nearly 1.1 million Georgians voted by mail for Tuesday's primary,

which had been delayed twice due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In-person voting Tuesday was beset by cascading failures. Voters waited up to five hours to cast ballots at some polling places due to equipment problems, poll worker unfamiliarity with a new voting system and social distancing measures taken because of the virus. Many voters also showed up to vote in person because absentee ballots they requested never arrived by mail.

The scanners and ballot-marking devices used in all 159 Georgia counties Tuesday are part of a voting equipment package the state purchased for \$120 million from Dominion Voting Systems after a federal judge ordered it to scrap an outdated, untrustworthy system.

In post-election reviews Wednesday, election panels in all four counties detected unregistered votes while examining ballot images flagged by the vote-tallying scanner's software for anomalies.

In Clarke County, vote review panelist Adam Shirley estimated that at least 30 ballots out of about 300 flagged for anomalies had votes which "the system had not marked at all, that had not processed at all."

Shirley, a Democrat, recommended a review of all 15,000 absentee ballots.



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate John Hickenlooper was fined for ethics violations a Colorado commission said he committed as governor.

Former Colo. governor fined \$2,750 for ethics violations

Associated Press

DENVER — A Colorado commission fined Democratic U.S. Senate candidate John Hickenlooper \$2,750 on Friday for ethics violations he committed as governor that included accepting a private jet flight to an official event and receiving benefits he didn't pay for at a meeting of government, business and financial leaders in Italy.

Hickenlooper insisted that his intent was to promote Colorado's economy as governor. He acknowledged, however, that on several occasions he didn't seek an opinion from the ethics commission on individual gifts. He

also acknowledged that he didn't get formal training on Colorado ethics law.

The Colorado Independent Ethics Commission fined Hickenlooper \$2,200 for accepting a trip to Connecticut on a jet owned by Republican billionaire Larry Mizel's company, MDC Holdings, to attend the commissioning of the USS Colorado, a U.S. Navy submarine. MDC Holdings is a large developer in Colorado.

It also fined Hickenlooper \$550 for accepting transport, meals, tours and other perks during a 2018 conference in Turin, Italy, sponsored by Fiat Chrysler. Hickenlooper testified that he believed

a \$1,500 hotel bill he paid there covered all expenses.

The Public Trust Institute, a conservative group led by a former GOP Colorado House speaker, brought the ethics complaint, which Hickenlooper has long denounced as politically motivated.

Hickenlooper, a centrist backed by national Democrats, faces a June 30 primary against former state House Speaker Andrew Romanoff. The winner takes on incumbent GOP Sen. Cory Gardner, a close ally of President Donald Trump who once was considered among the most vulnerable Republican senators up for reelection this year.

GOP congressman who officiated same-sex wedding loses primary

Associated Press

LYNCHBURG, Va. — A freshman Virginia Republican congressman who angered social conservatives in his district when he officiated a same-sex wedding lost his party's nomination.

U.S. Rep. Denver Riggleman lost a GOP convention Saturday that was done via drive-thru because of the coronavirus pandemic. He was defeated by Phil Good, a former athletics department official at Liberty University.

While the convention ended at 7 p.m., the vote tally was not announced until after 1 a.m. Sunday.

Good won 58% of the vote, campaign manager Nancy Smith told The Associated Press. Fifth District Republican Committee Chair Melvin Adams said that 2,537 of over 3,500 registered delegates voted, news outlets reported.

"Resounding win!" Smith wrote in an email.

Riggleman, a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, upset many Republicans in his district last summer when he officiated the wedding of two male campaign aides.

The convention was held at a Lynchburg-area church near

Good's home and was the only place delegates could cast a ballot in a district that stretches from northern Virginia to the North Carolina border.

Riggleman has said that a coterie of Republican insiders were trying to rig the contest against him, forcing the nomination process to be decided with a convention instead of a primary. Conventions favor more conservative candidates and have been used for years by Virginia Republicans to block moderate Republicans from winning office.

"Voting irregularities and bal-

lot stuffing has been reported in multiple counties in the #VA05. Voter fraud has been a hallmark of this nomination process and I will not stand for it," Riggleman tweeted a little over an hour before results were announced. "@VA_GOP needs to reevaluate their priorities. We are evaluating all our options at this time."

President Donald Trump endorsed Riggleman, as did Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr.

Good is now the Republican nominee for Virginia's 5th congressional District. Four Demo-

crats are vying to challenge him in the fall, with the winner picked later this summer.

"That's what losers say," Good told reporters, commenting on Riggleman's allegations of irregularities.

Good has pledged to restore "Judeo-Christian" values to Congress. He's also a hardliner on immigration and wants English to be the official language of the United States. His victory could make Democrats and outside groups more likely to spend money in the district, which easily went for Trump in 2016.

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STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

Poland's Duda: LGBT 'ideology' worse than communism

By VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Polish President Andrzej Duda accused the LGBT rights movement Saturday of promoting a viewpoint more harmful than communism and said he agreed with another conservative politician who stated that "LGBT is not people, it's an ideology."

Duda made his comments in the small southwestern town of Brzeg as he campaigns for reelection in Poland, a predominantly Catholic nation that spent more than four decades under communist governments.

Gay rights is emerging as a key campaign theme in the presiden-

tial election as the race grows close between Duda, backed by the nationalist conservative ruling party, and Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who has called for tolerance for gays and lesbians.

Duda, 48, told his supporters that his parents' generation did not struggle to cast off communism only to now accept "an ideology" that he thinks "is even more destructive to the human being."

The president said that during Poland's communist era, regimes ensured survival by indoctrinating the youngest generation.

Earlier in the week, Duda signed a declaration drafted for the stated purpose of helping families that included language

on "protecting children from LGBT ideology" with a ban on "propagating LGBT ideology in public institutions."

But gay and lesbian Poles and liberal Poles say government officials are adopting a language of dehumanization. They believe Duda and others are targeting homosexuals to curry favor with the powerful Catholic church — which faces allegations of covering up clerical abuse — and shore up support among conservative voters ahead of the election.

The election is scheduled for June 28, with a second round featuring the two top candidates two weeks later on July 12 if none of the contenders wins at least 50% outright.



CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/Associated Press

People with rainbow flags take part in a rainbow disco flashmob Thursday in front of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland.

Venezuela demands release of businessman connected to Maduro

By JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

MIAMI — Venezuela on Saturday demanded the release of a government-connected businessman who was detained in Cape Verde on U.S. corruption charges,

calling his arrest an illegal act of aggression by the Trump administration aimed at piling new hardships on the crisis-racked oil nation.

Alex Saab's arrest Friday while en route to Iran was a major blow to President Nicolas Maduro's

government. U.S. officials believe he holds many secrets about how the socialist leader, his family and top aides allegedly siphoned off millions of dollars in government contracts amid widespread hunger in the oil-rich nation.

Venezuela's government ener-

getically protested the arrest of Saab, who it said was traveling on a Venezuelan passport and was on a "humanitarian mission" to buy food and medical supplies. In a statement issued Saturday night, it said an Interpol arrest notice for Saab wasn't issued until a day

after his detention, violating international norms and disregarding the diplomatic immunity he enjoys as an "agent of a sovereign government."

It said it would initiate all legal and diplomatic actions to secure his release.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man guilty of smuggling rare cacti overseas

TX EL PASO — A man pleaded guilty in connection with a West Texas ring that smuggled rare living rock cacti, a plant that wildlife officials say is a protected species.

Harry George Bock II of El Paso pleaded guilty before a U.S. magistrate judge in Pecos to one count of mislabeling exports in a scheme to ship cacti overseas, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas said.

The living rock cactus is only found in the Big Bend region, federal wildlife officials said.

Five other people have already been sentenced in connection with the scheme. The men were accused of violating the Lacey Act of 1900 that makes it a felony to sell or purchase protected wildlife and plants. The investigation began in 2012. It is still unknown how many plants were smuggled, but about 4,000 plants were seized by authorities, wildlife officials said in a release.

Ambulance crashes into toll booth, injures four

OK NEWCASTLE — Four people were injured when an ambulance crashed into a toll booth on an Oklahoma turnpike, and investigators were trying to determine whether the driver fell asleep at the wheel, Oklahoma Highway Patrol spokesperson Sarah Stewart said.

The Jackson County Emergency Medical Services ambulance crashed into the toll booth near Newcastle, about 20 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, Stewart said.

A patient and two paramedics who were inside the ambulance were taken by helicopter to an Oklahoma City hospital following the crash, on Interstate 44, according to Stewart. But only the patient and one paramedic, the driver, were admitted, while the second paramedic was treated and released.

A worker in the toll booth was taken by another ambulance to a hospital where she was treated and released, Stewart added.

Annual Cowboy Poetry festival canceled for '21

NV ELKO — The annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Nevada is joining other music and art festivals around the nation canceling in-person events due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Western Folklife Center executive Kristen Windbigler told the Elko Daily Free Press that organizers hope to provide online podcast and video shows instead of the six-day annual festival in late January 2021.

Board members decided they could not commit to contracts for the event, and that canceling at the last minute could have been more financially devastating to the organization and its future. The festival has been held in Elko since 1985.



MATT FREED, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

Tears of joy

Karen Sudy of Baldwin, Pa., cries next to her niece, Reese Temme, as she catches a glimpse of her mother, Betty Milinski, for the first time in person in three months during a parade Friday to celebrate the start of outdoor visits due to the coronavirus at Norbert Personal Care Home in the Overbrook area in Pittsburgh.

Ruling: Charging kiosks can't award money

WI MADISON — A unanimous Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that cell-phone-charging kiosks that allow users to win or lose money by playing a video game are illegal gambling machines.

Quick Charge Kiosk, owned by Jeremy Hahn, operates the kiosks, known as "Pow'r Up" machines, in convenience stores and gas stations throughout the state.

Soon after the kiosks debuted, the Wisconsin attorney general said in 2015 that they were illegal gambling machines and several were seized. Quick Charge sued, arguing that the machines were allowed under state law.

"Free play option or not, Quick Charge's argument does not overcome the reality that its kiosks can be used as gambling machines," Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Brian Hagedorn wrote. "Simply because a kiosk has uses other than illegal gambling does not negate that reality."

Gospel radio announcer killed outside her home

MD BALTIMORE — A longtime Gospel radio announcer was fatally shot outside her home in a case Baltimore police call a "senseless" and "tragic murder."

Tyra Womack was pronounced

THE CENSUS

23

The number of years that Glenn Hoyt Harrison, 71, unlawfully collected his mother's Social Security Retirement Insurance Benefits after her death in November 1994. Her death was never reported to the Social Security Administration, and prosecutors said Harrison continued to access the funds, totaling \$363,344.10, and use them for his own personal expenses until December 2017. Harrison was arrested and charged in May 2019. As part of his sentence of three years and five months in a federal prison, he must repay the stolen money.

dead by medical personnel after police responded to a call about the shooting at her home in the Lauraville neighborhood of the city, news outlets reported.

Womack, who also went by Tyra Phillips professionally, was an announcer on WEA-FM's "Gospel Grace" program for more than 30 years, and provided information on the church community during the weekly broadcast. She also was an administrative assistant at a U.S. post office, her LinkedIn page shows.

The "senseless" shooting that killed her seems to have followed a neighborhood dispute, according to a statement from Baltimore Police spokeswoman Detective Nicole Monroe.

Bluegrass museum to reopen after pandemic

KY OWENSBORO — The Hall of Fame & Museum in Owensboro will reopen to the public this month after being closed for

almost three months during the coronavirus pandemic.

The museum's exhibits feature documentary-style films, artifacts and images. Exhibits on the second floor highlight the Hall of Fame and include additional items related to Hall of Fame members. Virtual tours can be accessed online.

Some adjustments have been made for health purposes. Details are posted online and in the building, Executive Director Chris Joslin said in a news release.

Police make arrest in 1999 cold case

AL MOBILE — A more than two-decades old cold case was closed in Alabama with the arrest of a 42-year-old man.

Mobile Police said officers arrested Jamelle Thomas of Mobile on a charge of murder for the December 1999 death of Marcel Chandler, 24, who was found shot to death inside his crashed car.

Police did not release details of what led them to Thomas as a suspect.

"For nearly 21 years, I have lived with the pain of not being able to provide the family with closure for the death of Marcel Chandler, which they so richly deserve," said Maj. Linda Tims, who served as a lead investigator on the case, in a statement from the police department.

City agrees to restore Depression-era theater

NJ JERSEY CITY — A majestic, Depression-era theater in Jersey City moved one step closer to being restored.

The city announced that it reached an agreement with a historic preservation group to solicit bids for a promoter and venue operator to resurrect Loew's Theatre in Journal Square.

The announcement ends a yearslong dispute between the city and Friends of the Loew's over the future of the theater.

The theater was built in the late 1920s in the ornate style of classic European opera houses and hosted the likes of Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Bing Crosby and many other big names.

It eventually became a movie theater and was boarded up in the 1980s. Friends of the Loew's has put on smaller shows there since the 1990s.

From wire reports

FACES



A first for 'Bachelor'

Reality show names black male lead

By LISA BONOS
The Washington Post

After 24 seasons aired over 18 years, "The Bachelor" will finally feature a black man as the show's lead.

On June 12, "Good Morning America" announced that Matt James, a 28-year-old who was originally cast as a contestant on Clare Crawley's season of "The Bachelorette," will be the flagship show's next Bachelor.

"The Bachelor" and its spinoff shows have long been criticized for their lack of diversity in casting, and in how contestants of color are treated on the show. In 40 seasons of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," there's only been one person of color as the lead: Rachel Lindsay, who first appeared in Nick Viall's 2017 season of "The Bachelor" and then went on to be "The Bachelorette" in 2018. Lindsay is married to her final pick from that season, Bryan Abasolo.

Recently, a Change.org petition calling on ABC and Warner Bros. the show's production company, to cast a person of color in the lead role garnered more than 85,000 signatures. "The franchise, and all those who represent it, should reflect and honor the racial diversity of our country — both in front of and behind the camera," it says.

When asked on "GMA" whether James thought ABC's decision was "too little, too late," he responded: "I don't think it's ever the wrong time to do the right thing."

Filming has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, and will air in the fall, "GMA" said. James is friends with several of the shows' alumni, "GMA" said, including Tyler Cameron and Hannah Brown, who was the 2019 Bachelorette.

Lindsay appeared on "GMA" as well, saying that the show still has a long way to go. Lindsay said she'd like to see producers of color behind the camera, and "I'd like to see them cast leads who are interested in dating outside of their race."

James noted that he didn't even tell his mother about the announcement before it was made — because she can't keep a secret. He's looking for a woman who's "selfless, honest, caring and compassionate," adding that he hopes his cast of contestants will be diverse, too.

Matt James will be the leading man on the 25th season of the romance reality series "The Bachelor."

ABC

'Fawltw Towers' episode pulled for racist content

From wire reports

A well-known episode of British comedy "Fawltw Towers" has been pulled from a U.K. streaming service for containing racist slurs, in a move that highlights how broadcasters are reassessing their archives.

The show's 1975 episode "The Germans" has been temporarily removed from UKTV, a broadcaster owned by the U.K. state-funded British Broadcasting Corp. The episode features a scene that shows a character using racial insults in a conversation about the West Indies cricket team.

"The episode contains racial slurs, so we are taking the episode down while we review it," a UKTV spokesman said in an emailed comment. "We regularly review older content to ensure it meets audience expectations and are particularly aware of the impact of outdated language. Some shows carry warnings and others are edited. We want to take time to consider our options for this episode."

The take-down by UKTV comes after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis ignited worldwide protests led by the Black Lives Matter movement against racism and police brutality, which have in turn set off reappraisals of cultural artifacts from statues to on-screen entertainment.

The episode of "Fawltw Towers" was famous for showing the owner of its titular dysfunctional British hotel, played by actor John Cleese, repeatedly failing to avoid bringing up the Second World War in front of his German guests. Netflix still hosts the episode in the U.K. and did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Paul, Watt to appear on 'Regular Heroes'

NFL star J.J. Watt, NBA player Chris Paul and country singer Brad Paisley will appear in an Amazon series that highlights everyday people who are supporting their community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Paul was to make a guest appearance on the fifth episode of "Regular Heroes" on June 12. He has been outspoken on social issues and vocal during the pandemic as the president of the NBA players' union president.

Paisley and Watt are expected to take part in separate episodes the following two weeks of the docuseries.

The eight-episode series premiered on Amazon Prime Video on May 8 with new episodes available every Friday through July 3.

Alicia Keys, Kevin Hart, Nick Jonas and Kelly Rowland have also appeared on the series.

Other news

■ Kelly Clarkson has filed for divorce from her husband of nearly seven years, Brandon Blackstock. The singer, talk show host and judge on "The Voice" filed court papers to end the marriage under her married name Kelly Blackstock on June 4 in Los Angeles. Clarkson, 38, and Blackstock, 43, have a 5-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son. Clarkson cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split and requested that she not be required to pay Blackstock spousal support.

■ Festival promoter Goldenvoice announced June 11 that the annual Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which has been postponed because of the pandemic, will occur, "as of now," on April 9-11, 2021, with the second weekend occurring April 16-18. Goldenvoice also announced that its flagship country music festival, Stagecoach, will convene on April 23-25.

Chappelle mourns Floyd, rips media in Netflix special

Associated Press

An angry, emotional Dave Chappelle spoke on the killing of George Floyd in a surprise Netflix special, ripping the media response to Floyd's death and saying America was being punished for its mistreatment of black men.

"I don't mean to get heavy, but we got to say something," said Chappelle, who added that America is enduring "the wrath of God" for a string of police assaults on black men.

The 27-minute special was released June 11 and is streaming free on Netflix's comedy YouTube channel. It was taken from a June 6 show at an outdoor pavilion in Yellow Springs, Ohio, with about 100 attendees.

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on his neck

for more than eight minutes even after he pleaded for air and stopped moving, an ordeal caught on video. Chappelle called his special "8:46" in part after the length of time the officer was on top of the handcuffed Floyd.

It is also the time Chappelle was born on Aug. 24, 1973. "I can't get that number out of my head because it was my time of birth on my birth certificate," he said.

"When I watched that tape, I understood this man knew he was going to die," said the comedian. "I can't tell you, as a man, watching another man, go through something like that, what it makes you feel like."

Chappelle added that he has been quiet until now for a reason. "Answer me: Do you want to see a celebrity right now?" he asked.

"No, this is the streets talking for themselves. They don't need me right now."

Chappelle also explored the violent deaths of such black men as Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Philando Castile. "One after the other," the comedian said. He also slammed the National Rifle Association and celebrated Kobe Bryant.

He ended by noting that his great-grandfather — once a slave — was part of an African American delegation that was asked to come to the White House following a lynching during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson.

"These things are not old. This is not a long time ago. It's today," Chappelle said. "These streets will speak for themselves whether I am alive or dead. I trust you guys."



The Washington Post

Dave Chappelle, shown in 2017, has a new special on Netflix's YouTube channel.

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OPINION

What isolation may be doing to our brains

By RICHARD A. FRIEDMAN
Special to The Washington Post

Now that the country is slowly emerging from lockdown, we might consider what effect this vast experiment in social isolation has had on not just how we feel, but also how we think.

Many of my friends and patients have been telling me they feel mentally duller and unfocused — even those who are still busy working and, in some cases, exercising even more than usual.

"I am tired and dumb, failing to mark calendar things correctly," said a friend who's usually a very smart writer. A patient told me that every day feels the same as the next and he's losing any sense of order. "What day is it, anyway?" he asked on a Zoom call.

I think they are on to something. Everyone knows that humans evolved as an intensely social species and that prolonged isolation can bring about anxiety, depression and insomnia and worsen many medical problems.

Isolation seems also to have negative effects on the brain and the ability to think. There is strong pre-COVID-19 evidence that this is the case in people at all ages and in animals as well.

For example, we know that people with richer social networks and engagement have a reduced rate of cognitive decline over time. Lisa F. Berkman of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health analyzed data from a nationally representative sample of nearly 17,000 subjects age 50 and older from 1998 to 2004. Subjects were cognitively assessed with a simple word-recall test and then afterward at two-

year intervals; meanwhile, social integration was measured by contact with family, friends and other social activities. The results showed that people with the highest level of social engagement had less than half the decline in their cognitive function of the least socially active subjects. Clearly, isolation is harmful to our brains.

And these effects of isolation can manifest quickly. A recent review of the psychological impact of previous quarantines found that health care workers who were isolated for just nine days after possible exposure to SARS (another disease caused by a coronavirus) experienced poor concentration, indecisiveness and impaired work performance.

Besides depriving us of the company of friends, quarantine also deprives us of roaming around and exploring the outside world, with all its unexpected experiences and chance encounters. We are understimulated — and, as a result, many of us have experienced chronic low-level stress.

This might seem counterintuitive, since people usually think a lack of engagement — and the pressure that goes with it — can be pleasurable and relaxing. But that's not always true. Too little engagement can be just as stressful as too much. An extreme example is that of children in orphanages who are understimulated because of neglect, and suffer permanent emotional and intellectual deficits as a result.

Chronic, particularly potentially harmful to the brain, in part because it leads to a persistent increase in the level of the stress hormones cortisol and norepinephrine. We know from animal and human studies that chronic elevation of cortisol can cause shrinkage of neurons in the hippocampus — a brain region that is critical to learning

and memory.

Consider the study of a group of genetically identical mice who spent a few months in an enriched environment — a multitiered mouse house with lots of space and opportunity for roaming around.

Researchers discovered that the mice who spent more time exploring their new world had significantly greater neurogenesis — the growth and development of neurons — in their hippocampus than their less adventurous mates. The implication is pretty clear: Being out and about and having new experiences can promote the growth of the hippocampus and be cognitively beneficial.

During the lockdown, many of us have tried to offset the problem of understimulation with virtual experiences such as Zoom and FaceTime. But all of us have been on a very short leash — stressed because we are isolated and understimulated, and thus perhaps not cognitively at our sharpest.

Fortunately, these cognitive deficits in adults appear to be reversible once the chronic stress subsides and you rejoin the outside world. The brains of children, though, are more neuroplastic, so for them chronic stress might have more long-term adverse effects.

As for me, I've missed the excitement of concerts and the movies during these long months. And though I never expected to say it, I even miss New York's crowded subway cars and the adrenaline rush of crowds buzzing with energy. Who would ever have thought that such a noisy, jostling experience might have made me a sharper psychiatrist?

Richard A. Friedman is a professor of clinical psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Most of rough 2020's misfortunes were self-inflicted

By GARY ABERNATHY
Special to The Washington Post

A popular meme shows Dr. Emmett Brown and Marty McFly from "Back to the Future" sitting in their time machine, with Doc Brown warning, "Whatever you do, don't set it to 2020!" Indeed, 2020 may be only at its midpoint, but for many it is already "the worst year ever." When the dust finally settles, history should record how most of the misfortunes were self-inflicted.

As a reminder, it started late last year with the impeachment of a president, a political hit job masquerading as a constitutional crisis. It is telling that President Donald Trump's impeachment was the top story of 2019, according to The Associated Press, but his 2020 trial and acquittal will likely rank no higher than fourth this year, behind COVID-19, racial justice protests and the presidential election.

The investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into Trump-Russia collusion was a dueler, but Democrats quickly pivoted to a phone call between Trump and the president-elect of Ukraine. "Quid pro quo" became a phrase repeated ad nauseam and the basis for a abuse-of-power charge. For good measure, Trump was also charged with obstruction, but it soon ended with Senate Republicans voting for acquittal as hurriedly as House Democrats had rushed to impeach him.

The came the new coronavirus, its only upside the fact that mercifully quelled endless post-impeachment analysis. The virus was real enough, of course, but government-ordered lockdowns and economy-killing business closures were major overreactions outside a handful of obviously deadly hot spots.

Studies are progressively emerging now to convince everyone how many lives were

saved by following the extreme measures recommended by health professionals. But then, 1,200 so-called health experts joined forces to sign a letter advising everyone not to use COVID-19 as a reason to shut down racial justice protests. To underscore the point, the letter stated, "This should not be confused with a permissive stance on all gatherings, particularly protests against stay-home orders."

In other words, the need to protest for racial justice outweighs the risk of spreading the virus, but gatherings protesting lockdowns are too risky. Got it. The letter is a gift to conservatives, another illustration why many Americans can't be counted on in support of draconian action on everything from social distancing to climate change are often viewed as politically driven.

Contrary to some assertions, Americans are not pretending the virus has disappeared. They know it's here, it's serious and it's sometimes deadly. Killed more than 100,000 Americans so far. But they also know that even with a vaccine, the flu is estimated to kill tens of thousands in the United States year after year — as many as 80,000 just three years ago. We don't shut down our world, despite the risks.

Mean and the American can't be forgiven for believing the virus should have been confronted not by soul-killing across-the-board lockdowns and unemployment, but instead by treating us like adults, with frequent health advisories while in many places we could continue attending our places of worship, cheering our favorite teams, watching our proud seniors celebrate their graduations, and enjoying all the other unifying activities that uplift us when we gather together.

Finally, another entirely avoidable atrocity was the killing of George Floyd, which sparked civil unrest nationwide. As was the case in many small towns, a Black Lives

Matter protest was held last weekend in my small town — Hillsboro, Ohio, a mostly white, Trump-supporting community. Nearly 300 protesters, white (mostly) and black, marched peacefully, stopping at the county courthouse in the town square to air their grievances. Members of the local VFW post stationed themselves nearby at a veterans' memorial plaza, some with firearms displayed — the Bill of Rights was in action all around — but no one was looking for trouble. Marchers voiced anger and impatience, but they did so peacefully.

A half-century since the civil rights movement, we don't need more hearings or conversations about race. We almost all agree on the most critical part of what needs to be done. Good, dedicated police officers already know the bad apples among them — the racists, or the ones who enjoy the power and authority of the badge more than they care about protecting and serving. They need to be weeded out now — not tomorrow, not next week, not after going through post-finding hearings, or three-step disciplinary procedures. There should never be another viral video of unlawful police violence, whether targeting blacks or whites. Racism, wherever it rears its ugly head to harm lives and livelihoods anywhere in America, must be condemned and eliminated.

Most of the times we sometimes think, we have the ability to control our fate if we refuse to let petty political grievances guide us, or allow fear to overwhelm us, or if we choose to address necessary reforms rather than waiting on upheaval and violence to force them upon us. The year 2020 may so far seem like the worst year ever, but it could be remembered as one of the best, if we learn from it what we should.

Gary Abernathy is a freelance writer based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

OPINION

Give police chiefs the power to fire bad cops

By DANIEL OATES

Special to The Washington Post

Reform advocates are starting to focus on police unions' immense power to block the discipline of bad cops. Where have they been? Police chiefs have been fighting this lonely battle for years. From our experience, we know there cannot be true reform unless Americans elect politicians willing to take on obstructionist labor leaders.

In Minneapolis, Police Chief Medaria Arradondo quickly fired the officers involved in the death of George Floyd. But very few chiefs have this ability. In my time as a chief in Michigan, Colorado and Florida, I never did, thanks to a combination of state and local laws, union contracts, and past labor precedents.

Much more typical is this scenario: A cop commits serious misconduct. The chief suspends him immediately. Often, the cop still gets paid to sit at home, because this is legally required. Internal Affairs investigates, but the process is delayed by exasperating legal and contract hurdles. Meanwhile, the community stew: Why hasn't the chief fired him?

Finally, the chief has the evidence to act. If merited, the cop is fired. Months have gone by, but that was the easy part. Now the court will appeal, because the review process is staggeringly favorable to bad cops.

The case goes either to an arbitrator or to a panel, a "civil service commission" appointed by the city council. The arguments are always the same: The chief's investigation was shoddy; the chief had a vendetta against this particular cop; other cops did this before and weren't fired; the alleged misconduct wasn't really that bad. Too often, arbitrators feel the pressure to "split the baby" in their decisions. Perhaps the cop is docked pay or demoted; otherwise, he's back on patrol.

In some states, legislatures have codified these protections in what's called a



RICHARD TSONG-TAARTARI, (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Medaria Arradondo, chief of the Minneapolis Police Department, speaks Wednesday in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Police Department will withdraw from police union contract negotiations, Arradondo said, as he announced initial steps in what he said would be transformational reforms to the agency in the wake of George Floyd's death.

"peace officer's bill of rights." As I saw in Florida, an officer accused of wrongdoing is interviewed only at the end of the investigation. State law guarantees him, and his lawyer, an opportunity to review every bit of evidence—every witness statement, any video, all the physical evidence—before he talks to Internal Affairs. This enables the officer to cast his actions in the best possible light—even to lie about what happened, once he knows the evidence will not disprove the lie. In subsequent arbitration, this becomes a critical tactical advantage.

In Colorado, there was no such guarantee—and the cultural difference in the departments I oversaw was striking. In Florida, trustworthiness was a challenge. In Colorado, officers generally did not lie to Internal Affairs—and, what's more,

they helped keep one another honest.

But that didn't mean it was easy to get rid of underperforming cops. In nearly nine years as chief in Aurora, Colo., I had 16 cops out of 650 whom I felt should be fired. Four I actually did fire. The Civil Service Commission promptly reversed me on three of them. So with the other 12 cops, I bent over backward to negotiate their departures with creative severance packages. I succeeded in getting them out—with deals that protected the city from litigation—but these agreements also allowed the cops to get jobs elsewhere if they could.

And those are just the disappointments the public can see. Another insidious cost of union intransigence is in the battles not fought. Arbitrations suck the life out of a

police chief. Instead of fighting crime or building community trust, you're huddled with lawyers, practicing testimony, memorizing evidence. You're also weighing the likely outcomes of battling the union. Win the arbitration, and your ethical standard is upheld for all your cops to see. Lose, and the union will trash your integrity and leadership.

You also realize that the union is superb at lobbying over your head to elected officials. "We can't work with this chief. He's unfair on discipline," they complain. You learn there are only so many fights to take on. On a case where you know the cop should get a healthy suspension, you agree to a written reprimand. The high standards you expect for the agency suffer.

These constraints are democratically imposed—by voter-approved city charters or elected city councils or state legislatures, all too easily swayed by unions and their donations and votes. The good news is that this means reform-minded voters have a say, too. We can elect leaders with the courage to change the laws and labor agreements that are killing accountability in policing. Unions will claim that the reforms deny cops due process, but this doesn't have to be true: In every department I served in, simple improvements could have reasonably ensured fairness for both police officers and their employers—the public.

I love cops. The vast majority are heroes who sacrifice every day to protect you, me and the next George Floyd. They embrace high ethical standards. They are repulsed by Floyd's death.

Help them. Vote. Empower our police chiefs to hold cops accountable. They will lead the reform America is demanding.

Daniel Oates, an attorney and the former chief of the NYPD Intelligence Division, served 18 years as a police chief in Aurora, Ariz., Mich., Aurora, Colo.; and, most, recently Miami Beach, Fla.

Don't give up on bringing manufacturing back to the US

By NOAH SMITH

Bloomberg Opinion

More than three years ago, Donald Trump was elected president on a promise to bring U.S. manufacturing back from China. Before the coronavirus pandemic hit, Trump's economic expansion—which became the longest on record—didn't even manage to restore all the manufacturing jobs lost in the Great Recession, much less reverse the declines of the previous decade.

Now it isn't simply a case of automation taking over from human laborers. Manufacturing production fell in 2019, and never reached its pre-2008 peak. Trump's trade war not only didn't resuscitate U.S. manufacturing, it also did nothing to move global supply chains out of East Asia. U.S. high-technology exports languish under Trump, while China's soared.

Trump's ineffective efforts make one thing abundantly clear: If high-value manufacturing industries and factory jobs are ever going to return to the U.S., it's going to take a lot more than tariffs and bellicose rhetoric.

But some thinkers on the political right are ready to take a more serious stab at the idea. The Reshoring Initiative, a policy plan released by the new think tank American Compass, has collected a number of big ideas aimed at making the U.S. a manufacturing powerhouse once again.

Abandoning the gospel of free trade and

embracing industrial policy is a huge leap for the political right, it's a stance more typical of left-leaning thinkers aligned with organized labor. The Reshoring Initiative's authors give a number of justifications for this tectonic shift. First, they cite the traditional concerns of U.S. national security and soft power. They also mention resilience to global supply-chain shocks—a weakness of the traditional free-trade system that was glaringly exposed by the coronavirus shutdowns. Finally, they assert that bringing supply chains back with in the U.S. is useful for productivity and innovation.

These last two assertions are the most contentious. The traditional case for free trade is based on the notion that when countries divide up production according to what each one specializes in, productivity improves.

For example, economists typically believe that combining cheap labor in developing countries with the capital and know-how of developed nations bears dividends for both. But some dissent, arguing that countries that perform a greater variety of economic activities grow faster, possibly because knowledge and talent flows between upstream and downstream companies in a supply chain.

Proponents of free trade also claim that international supply chains increase innovation, arguing that companies exposed to global competition are forced to innovate more in order to keep up. The evidence on this proposition is mixed; some papers

claim that import competition from China makes companies in developed countries more innovative, while others claim the exact opposite.

Given the difficulty of untangling the webs of cause and effect in world-trade patterns, neither dispute is likely to be resolved any time soon. Thus, the Reshoring Initiative represents a large gamble—a wholesale reordering of the relationship between government and industry in the U.S. that goes against decades of orthodoxy.

And it would be a substantial reordering. The Reshoring Initiative recommends not just traditional policies such as workforce training and tax incentives, but bold and novel steps like domestic-content requirements for manufacturers, major alterations to the World Trade Organization and government-sponsored corporate research consortiums. Rather than merely providing the inputs to make U.S. industry more competitive, these are policies that would heavily involve the government in telling private business what to produce and where to produce it. The last time such a reorientation occurred was during World War II.

Furthermore, there's a substantial chance that even these efforts, like Trump's trade war, will come to naught. The forces of economic clustering are extremely hard to overcome; East Asia is home not just to the deep capital resources of China and the cheap workforces of Southeast Asia, but to the high-tech companies of Japan,

Taiwan and South Korea. Besides being a deep repository of know-how, capital and labor, the region also boasts an enormous consumer base that already eclipses that of the U.S. That titanic economic agglomeration creates its own force of gravity that the sparsely populated continent of North America will struggle to supplant. Faced with these enormous fundamental forces, it's small wonder that most analysts are highly skeptical of the idea of reshoring.

But nevertheless, it's good that ideas like the Reshoring Initiative are being thrown around, because sticking with the current system should also be regarded as a gamble. With median incomes largely stagnant, inequality rising, productivity growth slowing and high-technology industries shifting away from the U.S., not doing anything should also be regarded as risky. Industrial policy also probably makes for good politics—by offering Americans a concrete vision of what a healthier economy could look like, instead of leaving it up to the vagaries of the market, the authors of the Reshoring Initiative may be able to gather broad support for a cohesive growth strategy, even if it isn't a perfect one. The U.S. economic strategy of leaving the policy decisions to whims of the market has hit the point of severely diminishing returns, so it's time to brainstorm new approaches.

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

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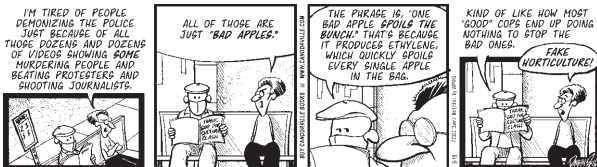
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



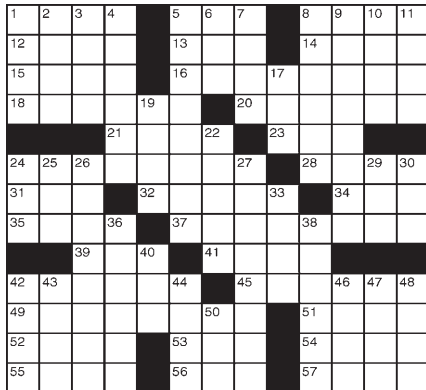
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- Grand tale
- Corn core
- Slightly
- Jessica of "Fantastic Four"
- Italian article
- Theater box
- Check
- Orchestral piece
- Trattoria offerings
- Stage comments
- Folk singer Phil
- NBC sketch show
- Implication
- Morays
- Actress Lucy
- Wear away
- Tic-tac-toe win
- Univ. division
- Soften
- "2001" computer

DOWN

- Lawman Wyatt
- Entreaty
- Sacred bird of Egypt
- Synagogue figure
- Abbreviate
- Yoko from Tokyo
- "Troy" actor Eric
- Sking style
- "Ta-ta!"
- Screenwriter James
- GOP rivals
- Curved letter
- Part of a French play
- Be nosy
- Ancient
- 25 Complete
- 26 Bliss
- 27 "The Man Who Knew Too Much" actress
- 29 Despondent
- 30 Junior
- 33 Architect
- 36 Capturing
- 38 Insurance type
- 40 Allow
- 42 Fortas and Lincoln
- 43 Tip off
- 44 Egggy drinks
- 46 "Burr" author
- 47 Sandwich
- 48 Jazz great Getz
- 50 Actress Long

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-15

CRYPTOQUIP

QBBZQOCPI EONULQYKOBQZ
HOZC QZZ QENXV VKP ZOHP
NH MNXZ MXYPLMVQL NVOM:

"VKP LPIIOWU MOWUPL."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD IT BE CALLED WHEN RESIDENTS OF PARIS OR MARSEILLES BECOME CLOSE CHUMS? FRENCH-SHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals C

NFL/NHL

Browns' Mayfield says he'll kneel during anthem



RON SCHWANE/AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield, left, said he plans to kneel during the national anthem this upcoming season to support protests of social injustice, police brutality and racism.

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield plans to kneel during the national anthem this upcoming season to support protests of social injustice, police brutality and racism.

In answering a post from a fan on his Instagram account Saturday that pleaded with him not to kneel, Mayfield responded: "Pull your head out. I absolutely am." Mayfield has been outspoken about the need for more understanding and justice in the nation following the death of George Floyd, a black man, while in police custody in Minneapolis.

"It's a pivotal time for change," Mayfield said Thursday. "What's being addressed now obviously has been going on for a long time. So now everybody's finally coming together to address it. And doing it the right way of holding people accountable."

Mayfield wore an "I Can't Breathe" T-shirt while working out. Later, he posted another message outlining his stance on kneeling.

"Everybody so upset about my comment doesn't understand the reason behind kneeling in the first place," Mayfield wrote. "I have

the utmost respect for our military, cops, and people that serve OUR country. It's about equality and everybody being treated the same because we are all human. It's been ignored for too long and that is my fault as well for not becoming more educated and staying silent."

"If I lose fans, that's OK. I've always spoken my mind. And that's from the heart."

On Friday, Houston Texans coach Bill O'Brien said he would kneel with his players if they chose to do so during the anthem.

Earlier this week, while not going as far as O'Brien, new Browns coach Kevin Stefanski made it clear he would back his players in any peaceful demonstrations.

"My position is I want to make sure I support our players," Stefanski said. "First things first, I want to make sure I sit down with them and talk. ... I can just promise you this, we will spend as much time as needed to make sure that we are all on the same page and we are a united front from a player, staff, you name it (standpoint)."

Stefanski attended a peaceful protest last weekend and has encouraged his players to "get in the arena."

NHL players not rushing back for voluntary skates

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

John Tavares took his sticks home from the rink in Toronto to tape them up so he wouldn't waste his limited time there.

Across the border, Andrew Copp is waiting things out in the U.S. before returning to Winnipeg for the start of mandatory training camps because of Canada's 14-day quarantine regulation because of the coronavirus pandemic.

NHL players could start participating in voluntary small-group workouts, and teams began opening their training facilities last Monday. Players learned Thursday training camps can open July 10, pending an agreement on returning to play later this summer. Now, the players are expected to trickle back in preparation of the resumption of the season.

"We've obviously got quite a few of our guys here in town and here at the facility kind of getting on the same page, which is great," said Tavares, the Maple Leafs' captain. "We've got a lot of guys that are still trying to figure out their situation, but obviously have some very good setups and understand their importance to get things up to speed."

The announcement of a potential start date for camps comes after the league and players already signed off on a 24-team playoffs format, and approved protocol for initial workouts.

Next up will be selecting two hub cities which will play host to the games, with a decision expected to come within the next 10 days.

Of the 10 potential hubs, including three in Canada, Las Vegas is considered a

'Every situation will be different and unique depending on what they have available to them in the areas they are at.'

Lou Lamoriello

New York Islanders general manager

strong candidate, a person familiar with the discussions told The Associated Press on Friday night. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity.

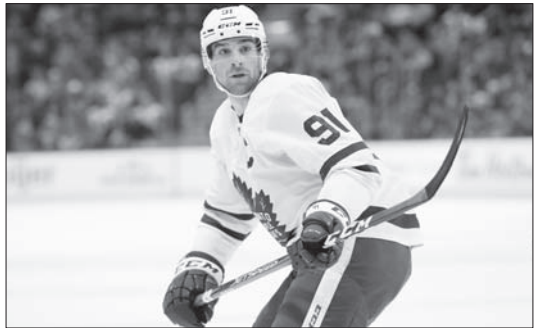
The league and players must also agree on testing and health-and-safety protocols amid the pandemic before games can resume.

Players started skating by the handful this week in Boston, Chicago, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Columbus and Edmonton, while some teams waited to open their doors. Veteran Nashville general manager David Poile said that while almost a dozen players remained in the arena, the NHL has instructed teams not to ask or encourage players to show up because this stage is voluntary.

GMs expect players to adjust along the way.

"Every situation will be different and unique depending on what they have available to them in the areas they are at," New York Islanders GM Lou Lamoriello said.

"No different than a normal training camp when some players come in two weeks ahead of time because they don't have the



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Toronto Maple Leafs center John Tavares took his sticks home from the rink in Toronto to tape them up so he wouldn't waste his limited time there. Players learned Thursday training camps can open July 10, pending an agreement on returning to play.

ice time in their area that maybe they can get here, and then other players will wait because they're working out with a lot of players in the area they're at."

There might be a higher volume of participation in places such as Toronto, with more players naturally in town. Sidney Crosby and some Penguins teammates are already on the ice at their shiny practice rink, and the Blue Jackets reported eight or nine players skating daily in different groups.

Up to six players are allowed on the ice at a time with a coach. Tavares described the slice of normalcy as "a breath of fresh air" even as others around the league opted to stay home and skate on their own.

"I'm not sure exactly how much you can do together out there to get a whole lot out of it," Montreal captain Shea Weber said. "Who really knows, to be honest with you.

There's so many uncertainties with everything that's going on, with everything that might be going forward here."

Now that there's a July 10 date to start camps, there could soon be a flood of players lacing up their skates and returning to their home cities. Canada requires anyone entering the country to quarantine for two weeks, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the same for those returning to the U.S.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said 17% of players are overseas. Many are in Sweden and, as a result, have been able to skate for several weeks.

"If a player went back to Finland and he's been training and ready to go and he comes back to Nashville and he has to sit at home for 14 days, that kind of defeated the whole purpose of going home in the first place," Poile said.

MLB/NBA

Talks: Owners now weigh starting season

FROM BACK PAGE

"It unfortunately appears that further dialogue with the league would be futile," union head Tony Clark said in a statement. "It's time to get back to work. Tell us when and where."

MLB responded with a statement accusing the union of not negotiating in good faith and cited the March agreement that called for prorated salaries but did not obligate teams to play in empty ballparks.

"The MLBPA's position that players are entitled to virtually all the revenue from a 2020 season played without fans is not fair to the thousands of other baseball employees that clubs and our office are supporting financially during this very difficult 2020 season," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "We will evaluate the union's refusal to adhere to the terms of the March agreement, and after consulting with ownership, determine the best course to bring baseball back to our fans."

While the NBA, NHL and MLS have figured out deals to return to the summer of the coronavirus, baseball has descended into the fractious labor strife that led to eight work stoppages from 1972-95. The union has seethed following a collective bargaining agreement in late 2016 that led to relatively flat salaries for five straight years, an unsuccessful grievance accusing the Chicago Cubs of manipulating third baseman Kris Bryant's service time to delay his eligibility for free agency and a grievance accusing teams of improperly using revenue sharing proceeds, a process critics call "tanking."

These contentious negotiations heighten the chance of a spring training lockout after the current collective bargaining agreement expires on Dec. 1, 2021.

"Given your continued insistence on hundreds of millions of dollars of additional pay reductions, we assume these negotiations are at an end," union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer wrote in a letter to Deputy Commissioner Dan Haren on Saturday that was obtained by The Associated Press. "If it is your intention to unilaterally impose a season, we again request that you inform us and our members of how many games you intend to play and when and where players should report. It is unfair to leave players and the fans hanging at this point, and further delay risks compromising health and safety. We demand that you inform us of your plans by close of business on Monday."

Players and MLB agreed to a deal on March 26 calling for prorated salaries, a deal that included \$170 million in salary advances and a guarantee of service time for 2020 even if no games are played.

That deal gave baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred the right to start the season provided there were no travel restrictions and games could be played without fans in regular-season ballparks. It called for "good faith" negotiations to play in empty ballparks or neutral sites.

Players insist they should not have to accept additional cuts. A unilateral decision to start play could mean the playoffs would remain at 10 teams and not expand to 16, as both sides have proposed.

"The solidarity of the players has never been more concentrated in years," said Scott Boras, baseball's most high-profile agent, who has three clients on the union's eight-man executive subcommittee.

MLB made three economic offers, the last Friday, and the union proposed two. The executive sub-

committee held a call Saturday followed by a larger group of about 100 players, including the full executive committee and others.

The sides remain far apart on how much players should get of the \$4 billion in salaries they originally were set to earn: MLB has offered to guarantee \$1.27 billion and increase the total to \$1.45 billion if the postseason is completed. Players want \$2.25 billion and an 89-game season.

"Players want to play. It's who we are and what we do," Clark said.

"Since March, the association has made it clear that our No. 1 focus is playing the fullest season possible, as soon as possible, as safely as possible. Players agreed to billions in monetary concessions as a means to that end, and in the face of repeated media leaks and misdirection, we made additional proposals to inject new revenues into the industry — proposals that would benefit the owners, players, broadcast partners, and fans alike. It's now become apparent that these efforts have fallen upon deaf ears."

Owners must now decide whether to go ahead with a shortened schedule, of perhaps 48 or 50 games. A 50-game regular season at prorated salaries would total \$1.23 billion, leaving the union to claim about \$1 billion plus interest in damages should the case continue to a decision and players prevail.

The sides' March agreement stated "each of the parties shall play in good faith to as soon as is practicable commence, play, and complete the fullest 2020 championship season and post-season that is economically feasible" consistent with the other provisions.

In recent days, owners have decried the supposed unprofitability of owning a baseball team and the Commissioner has repeatedly threatened to schedule



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

The Reds' Josh VanMeter swings during a workout on Friday in Westfield, Ind. Players have told owners to order the season's start.

a dramatically shortened season unless players agree to hundreds of millions in further concessions," Clark said. "Our response has been consistent that such concessions are unwarranted, would be fundamentally unfair to players, and that our sport deserves the fullest 2020 season possible. These remain our positions today, particularly in light of new reports regarding MLB's national television rights — information we requested from the league weeks ago but were never provided."

Players contend teams' financial accounts don't reflect income they gain from regional sports networks, real estate projects surrounding ballpark developments and such below-the-line business such as the sale of equity in BAM Tech to The Walt Disney Co. and the NHL.

The New York Post reported Saturday that MLB and Turner were closing in on an agreement for rights starting in 2022, the season after Turner's current contract expires for one League Championship Series and a package of Sunday regular-season broadcasts in the season's second half.

"We have fulfilled any obligation to 'discuss' with you the economic feasibility of playing games

without fans," Meyer wrote.

He accused Halem of "underhanded tactics to circumvent the union" and said "your approach has been one delay tactic after another."

Meyer criticized MLB's opening economic discussion in May 12, which claimed teams would lose \$640,000 for each regular-season game played.

"Your own self-serving slide presentation showed that the league as a whole will lose significantly less money playing a season than not playing a season, and Rob admitted this in response to a direct question," Halem wrote. "With respect to other assertions in the presentation, we found it incomplete, unclear and unpersuasive and requested information that would allow us to verify it. Your eventual response was completely inadequate."

MLB provided summaries of regional sports network agreements last month but not the actual deals.

"For example, we still have never received unredacted RSN and national TV contracts or sponsorship agreements, the details of ongoing discussions with TV networks and sponsors, or projections of the value of any expanded playoffs," Meyer wrote.

Cavs 'sick' being part of Delete 8

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — When Colin Sexton learned that the NBA — and not a pandemic — had prematurely ended his second season, the Cavaliers guard had a guttural reaction.

"I was sick," he said.

The league's decision to invite only 22 teams to resume play at Disney World in Florida next month and a season interrupted by COVID-19 was a body blow for players on the omitted squads — the Delete 8.

And although they've had time to process the exclusion, Sexton, Cavs star forward Kevin Love and their teammates are still struggling with the reality that their season is over while hoping they get to do something together this summer.

"It's a tough pill to swallow," Love said Friday on a Zoom call from New York. "But from a logistical perspective, being sick and navigating this time, I totally

understand that."

Perhaps no team feels the sting of being denied a chance to complete the season more than the Cavs, who went through a mid-season coaching change — John Beilein stepped down at the All-Star break — and were playing their best ball when the outbreak brought everything to a halt.

With 17 games remaining, the Cavs were hoping to build off the momentum they had found in 11 games under new coach J.B. Bickerstaff. But instead of getting to pick up where they left off, the Cavs are stuck in a delay game they're powerless to control.

"I feel like at the end of the season we were looking to ruin teams' hopes in the playoffs and get a few wins here and there and just play it out," said Sexton, who averaged a team-high 20.8 points and improved across the board in his second year. "We weren't going to make the playoffs, but I felt like us playing these games was definitely going to help us."

Asked to wrap up this strange

season, Love couldn't.

"As far as summarizing this season, I don't really know how to do that because we never really had clarity or we never got to like put our stamp or finalize how those last games were going to look for us," he said. "I was really excited to see how that was all going to play out."

The Cavs and the other seven teams not invited inside the Disney "bubble" to conclude the season have been in talks with the league about doing something for them. There have been discussions about extended mini-camps, scrimmages and even an eight-team tournament.

Several coaches, including Bickerstaff, have said it's unfair for their teams to sit out and be doubly penalized by not being able to bond or play meaningful games. With the start of next season expected to be delayed until December, it's possible the Cavs, Warriors, Pistons and others could go nearly a year between playing games that count.

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GOLF

Schauffele leads Colonial over host of stars

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The PGA Tour went three months without playing. It took three days to show fans what they were missing, even if all they could do was watch on TV.

Eight players had at least a share of the lead at some point Sunday in the Charles Schwab Challenge. When the third round at Colonial ended, 14 players were separated by three shots.

And not just anybody.

Xander Schauffele, among the growing roster of young stars in golf, finished off his six-birdie round with a 12-footer on the last hole for a 4-under 66.

The six players one shot behind included Jordan Spieth, whose short game helped him navigate some early trouble and nerves. He had the lead until he went without making a birdie on the back nine. Still, his 68 gave him his best 54-hole position since Colonial a year ago as he tries to end three years without winning.

Also one shot behind was Justin Thomas (66) and U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland, who quickly got into the mix with birdies on his last two holes for a 66.

Rory McIlroy (69) and Justin Rose (68) were among those three shots behind. Patrick Reed, who had to birdie three of his last six holes Friday to make the cut with one shot to spare, shot 63 and was in.

All this with hardly any noise. "I don't have like a huge effect on the crowd I'd say, so not having fans isn't the craziest thing to me," Schauffele said. "It just does feel like I'm playing at home with some of my buddies. It's quiet. You make three birdies in a row, you can kind of give yourself a pat on the back."

This wasn't entirely a TV show. A few houses in the Colonial neighborhood put up their own hospitality tents to see limited golf, the rowdiest behind the 16th tee and another down the 15th fairway. Fans gathered on the balcony of an apartment complex along the 14th, which also brought out the first, "Get in the hole!" since the PGA Tour returned for the first since March 12 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I can't imagine," said were no bursts of cheers as Spieth rammed



Jordan Spieth reacts after missing a birdie chip on the 18th green during the third round of the Charles Schwab Challenge at the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, on Saturday.

in a 40-foot putt on the eighth hole or stuffed his approach to 3 feet on No. 9 to take the lead. A few dozen of the essential personnel — broadcast crews, volunteers for scoring — were around when Schauffele made his birdie for the lead at 13-under 197.

But there are leaderboards that show only the score — no need for updates on FedEx Cup leaders or statistical data for each player as he prepares a shot because that's for the fans, and there are none.

That will be the only way anyone knows where they stand in what figures to be a wild chase to the finish.

"When you have spectators and things, you get on a roll, and most of the time you feed off of that," said Brandon Grace, whose third straight 66 left him one shot behind. "I remember when I won Hilton Head and played well in the majors, the crowd started getting behind you and you start feeling like you can't do anything

wrong. At the moment, it's just you and your caddie out there."

Colonial is the first of five tournaments in the return to golf that doesn't allow spectators. Players have had three days to adjust to the lack of sound. Sunday is different, everyone trying to generate their own momentum without the energy typically delivered from outside the ropes.

"When you get into contention and have a chance to win a golf tournament, that adrenaline starts pumping," Woodland said. "It's been a little different. The first two days, there wasn't too much adrenaline. There will be adrenaline going, which you have with fans or without fans. Tomorrow should be fun."

Spieth passed a big test, with another to come as he tries to end nearly three years without a victory. Five times last year, he started a tournament with two rounds in the 60s and was left behind when he couldn't break par on Saturday.

There were a few anxious moments for him, such as an iron off the fifth tee that would have finished on the practice range if not for a fence in place for the tournament. He got up-and-down from short of the green to escape with

Scoreboard

Charles Schwab Challenge

PGA Tour
Saturday
Colonial Country Club
Fort Worth, Texas
Purse: \$7.5 million
Yardage: 7,205 Par 70
Third Round

Xander Schauffele	65-66-66=197	-13
Gary Woodland	65-67-66=198	-12
Justin Thomas	64-68-66=198	-12
Brandon Grace	66-66-66=198	-12
Collin Morikawa	64-67-67=198	-12
Jordan Spieth	65-65-68=198	-12
Daniel Berger	65-67-67=199	-11
Harold Varner III	63-66-70=199	-11
Patrick Reed	68-69-63=200	-10
Abraham Ancer	64-70-66=200	-10
Corey Conners	66-67-67=200	-10
Justin Rose	63-69-68=200	-10
Rory McIlroy	68-63-69=200	-10
Bryson DeChambeau	65-65-70=200	-10
L.T. Preston	68-66-67=201	-9
Chesson Hadley	70-68-64=202	-8
Cameron Champ	66-71-65=202	-8
Jason Kokrak	67-70-65=202	-8
Sungjae Im	66-69-67=202	-8
Mark Hubbard	67-68-67=202	-8
Bubba Watson	68-66-68=202	-8
Charles Howell III	70-67-66=203	-7
Jim Furyk	67-70-67=203	-7
Peter Uihlein	69-65-69=203	-7
Joel Dahmen	68-65-70=203	-7
Maverik McNealy	69-69-66=204	-6
Tony Finau	68-69-67=204	-6
Adam Hadwin	65-71-68=204	-6
Kevin Kisner	67-69-68=204	-6
Rafa Carreras	68-68=204	-6
Brian Harman	65-69-70=204	-6
Alex Noren	67-71-67=205	-5
Kevin Bradley	69-69-67=205	-5
Bud Cauley	71-67-67=205	-5
Brooks Koepka	68-69-68=205	-5
Rory Sabbatini	68-68-69=205	-5
Matthew Fitzpatrick	68-69-68=205	-5
Matt Jones	66-70-69=205	-5
Elyse Duncan	67-70-70=205	-5
Patrick Rodgers	67-68-70=205	-5
Viktor Hovland	68-68-69=206	-4
Lucas Glover	67-70-69=206	-4
Keith Sepp	68-68-70=206	-4
Billy Horschel	68-68-70=206	-4
Harry Higgs	68-70-71=206	-4
Justin Lieke	68-70-71=206	-4
Andrew Landry	68-70-69=207	-3
Justin Thomas	68-70-71=207	-3
Zach Johnson	72-66-69=207	-3
Justin Thomas	68-70-71=207	-3
Jason Dufner	68-69-70=207	-3
Matthew Nemeith	70-67-70=207	-3
Pat Perez	69-70-70=208	-2
Richie Verenski	68-70-70=208	-2
Brenson Burroughs	68-70-70=208	-2
Keith Mitchell	67-71-71=209	-1
Joaquin Niemann	72-65-72=209	-1
Adam Schenk	66-72-71=210	E
Doc Reddon	67-72-71=210	E
Jonathon Vegas	64-74-73=211	+1
Scott Piercy	67-73-71=211	+1
Denny McCarthy	70-68-73=211	+1
Zac Blair	67-73-71=211	+1
Brian Stuard	68-70-74=212	+2



Fans watch from a viewing area outside the course as Gary Woodland takes a shot on the 15th fairway on Saturday.

Spectators watch from bushes, temporary tents off course

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Max Butler and his buddies felt as if they had front-row seats at Colonial, even in the bushes with no spectators allowed on the course.

The group of five recent graduates from nearby TCU stood in a small gap between a row of shrubbery and a chain-link fence Saturday. They had a view of the fourth and fifth holes during the third round of the PGA Tour's first tournament in three months.

This is as good as it gets right now, and I can't imagine," said were no bursts of cheers as Spieth rammed

They had to push through gaps in the bushes to get to there, but Jack Kurz, who stood next to Butcher, said the close-up view made it "almost better than getting a ticket."

There were no tickets for anyone, not even for Colonial members. Some of those members did have obstructed views from one of three temporary viewing areas set up in the yards of homes on the edge of the course.

One member watching Saturday from a raised tent across Colonial Parkway with partial views of parts of the second, third and fourth holes, called it "bittersweet."

The member, who didn't want to give his name, wasn't happy to be on the outside

looking in, but was glad the tournament was being played three weeks after it was originally scheduled. He said others with him felt the same way. Held since 1946, Colonial is the longest-running PGA Tour event at the same venue.

Cheers from a temporary grandstand erected in a backyard near the 16th tee box could be heard at the far end of the golf course. Nearby in another yard was another raised tent dubbed "Mockingbird Deck" — after the street name.

When Corey Conners hit an approach to about 5 feet at No. 15 in the second round, he got quite a reaction from those outside spectators who could see it.

"Yeah, it was pretty cool," Conners said.

"I know we're used to getting applause and whatnot, and cheers when we hit good shots. So yeah, that felt nice — definitely different because that's not happening really anywhere else on the golf course. So it put a smile on my face for sure."

Jordan Spieth noticed people peeking through the fence by the No. 1 green and behind the second tee, where some rode up on their bikes. The Dallas native who attended the Colonial at times growing up was asked if he would ever try to sneak on a course.

"I wouldn't try and sneak on. I don't think that's going to go well for you," Spieth said. "But certainly try and get a view."

SPORTS



'It's about equality'
Browns QB Mayfield 'absolutely'
will kneel during anthem » **NFL, Page 20**

MLB

'It's time to get back to work. Tell us when and where.'

Players say talks are futile, tell league to order return

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

Baseball players told Major League Baseball additional talks to start the season during the coronavirus pandemic are pointless and said owners should order a return to work, which likely would spark lengthy litigation and a renewal of the sport's labor wars.

The union's action Saturday night in the bitter dispute

over pay could lead to a season of about 50 games rather than the 82 initially proposed by MLB. The Major League Baseball Players Association could respond by filing a grievance that would be heard by arbitrator Mark Irvings, arguing players are owed hundreds of millions of dollars in damages due to a shorter season.

SEE TALKS ON PAGE 22



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Busch ends short Truck Series drought » Auto racing, Page 21

